

In today's Jordan Times... Jordan concludes 'Eid celebrations: Page 3

Jordan Times An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Today's Weather Table with columns for Location, Overnight, Daytime, Low, High. Locations include Amman, Aqaba, Deserts, Jordan Valley.

Page 6, Number 1723 AMMAN, TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 1981 — SHAWWAL 4, 1401 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Crown Prince returns home



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Haya returned to Amman last night after a visit to the United Kingdom. They were met at airport (photo above) by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Acting Prime Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Bahjat Al Talhomni, President of the National Consultative Council Ahmad Al Tarawneh and a number of senior officials.

Begin puts final touches to coalition

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (R) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin today put finishing touches to a complex of coalition agreements which political experts expected to produce the most hawkish government in Israel's history.

Politicians calling at Mr. Begin's house during the morning told newsmen that most of the obstacles to a coalition pact had either been overcome or were on the verge of solution.

Begin's Likud Bloc and three religious parties would be signed tonight, leaving the prime minister free to present a new government tomorrow to the Knesset (parliament). Sticking together this coalition, with its one-seat majority in the 120-member Knesset, took five weeks of intensive haggling over personalities, policies and government jobs following Mr. Begin's narrow general election victory.

Unlike all previous Israeli administrations, the new government will be devoid of moderate centrist elements. Already there are signs that the new government will opt for an uncompromising hard-line approach to the Palestinian problem and to international affairs in general.

Sadat, Mrs. Thatcher view Lebanese ceasefire as new chance for Mideast peace

LONDON, Aug. 3 (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat agreed here today that the U.S.-sponsored ceasefire in Lebanon presented a new chance for peace in the Middle East, government sources said.

British officials believe President Sadat's backing for the European initiative is based on the fact that it highlights the Palestinian problem as the central factor underlying the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The biggest stream of speculation centred on former war hero Ariel "Arik" Sharon, reported by aides of Mr. Begin to be his choice as defence minister. In the previous Begin government, moderates managed to keep Mr. Sharon out of this job. Now the moderates are out of the cabinet and political experts expect Mr. Sharon to crack down vigorously on Palestinian nationalism and to promote wholesale Jewish settlement on occupied Arab land.

PLO envoy refutes Austrian allegation of arms smuggling

VIENNA, Aug. 3 (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Haya returned to Amman last night after a visit to the United Kingdom. They were met at airport (photo above) by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Acting Prime Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Bahjat Al Talhomni, President of the National Consultative Council Ahmad Al Tarawneh and a number of senior officials.

According to the interior ministry, police searching the luggage of the two Arabs found a sub-machinegun, four rifles, 525 rounds of ammunition and six hand grenades. The men were said to be using South Yemeni and Iraqi passports. Mr. Hussain said he was the target of a campaign and was submitting a memorandum to the Vienna authorities later today. "I think that certain circles are interested in having me recalled," he said without elaboration.

Bombs explode in Iran, 20 dead

LONDON, Aug. 3 (R) — Bombs exploded near the presidential offices in Tehran and at a market place in western Iran today, and first reports said a total of at least 20 people had been killed.

Iranian Radio reported the two blasts shortly after former prime minister Mohammad Ali Raja'i was formally sworn in as the country's new president.

Israel bans transfers to occupied towns

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (A.P.) — In a renewed bid to curb contacts between Palestinian Arabs in the occupied West Bank and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the occupation authorities said today it was banning funds from the joint Jordan-PLO Committee in Amman.

Gambia president asks rebels to give up arms

BAKOU, Aug. 3 (R) — The U.S. dollar soared to its highest in financial markets today, taking a heavy toll of the currencies of America's main trading partners and pushing gold to \$400 an ounce.

Senegalese military sources said the hostages included President Dawda's senior wife and his eight children. Eight other children were being held, as well as two Senegalese diplomats and two Senegalese soldiers, they said.

U.S. allies to help seek peace in Lebanon

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3 (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has received some specific commitments from European allies to help bring about a durable peace in Lebanon, a senior U.S. official said.

Without elaborating, he said specific steps were agreed upon this weekend when Mr. Haig met privately in Cancun, Mexico, with some West European foreign ministers including Lord Carrington of Britain, Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany and Claude Cheysson of France.

Sweden rules out asylum

Mr. Bani-Sadr could not be granted political asylum in Sweden if he left France, a Swedish foreign ministry spokesman said in Stockholm today.

U.S. dollar soars to highest in years

VIENNA, Aug. 3 (R) — Deposed Iranian president Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr said in an interview published today he had been ready to accept his ousting and possible execution until his wife persuaded him to resist.

Iranian consulates in Hamburg and Munich and on the Iranian embassy in Vienna. The embassy spokesman accused the West German authorities of ignoring repeated requests for better protection of Iranian diplomats and property. "The behaviour of the police raises the question of whether there is some complicity between the counter-revolutionaries and the West German security and intelligence services," he said.

Khomeini opponents storm Bonn embassy, injure envoy

BONN, Aug. 3 (Agencies) — Opponents of the clerical regime in Iran forced their entry into the Iranian embassy today, breaking windows, damaging offices and injuring the ambassador in a scuffle before police ejected them, authorities said.

Raja'i chooses successor

LONDON, Aug. 3 (R) — Iran's new president, Mr. Mohammad Ali Raja'i, has chosen Education Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar to succeed him as prime minister, Tehran Radio reported today.

Non-aligned team to Iran

LONDON, Aug. 3 (R) — A non-aligned mission seeking an end to the 10-month-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq will arrive in Tehran on Thursday, Iranian state radio said today.

One more death reported

7 cases added to cholera list in one day

AMMAN, Aug. 3 (J.T.) — Another seven cholera cases were reported in Jordan in the past 24 hours, the Health Ministry announced today.

The ministry also reported a total of 25 other cases, including one death, over the past four days.

With these figures, the number of people who have been infected by the disease so far has reached 750, including five deaths.

According to Health Ministry Under-Secretary Rizq Al Rashdan, cholera is not endemic here having been brought into the country by travellers and visitors to Jordan. He told Al Ra'i newspaper that the ministry's views are based on the fact that Jordan had been free of the disease for over a year, and that the recent outbreak spread so quickly among people of different occupations.

The ministry has worked out a comprehensive plan for combating cholera and eradicating it completely from the country, he said. This plan has been submitted to health experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO), who have been helping ministry officials in their work.

These experts, who have been monitoring the work of the ministry's teams and following up the anti-cholera campaign everywhere, will in turn refer the plan to the WHO, which will eventually respond with its views. Dr. Rashdan said.



King Hussein, with Prince Abdullah by his side, receives 'Eid greetings' at the Zarqa Officers' Club on Saturday. (Petra photo)

Jordan celebrates end of the fasting month

AMMAN, Aug. 3 (Petra) — Jordan and the Arab and Muslim Government spent JD 107m in 1st quarter

AMMAN, Aug. 3 (J.T.) — The government's general expenses in the first quarter of 1981 amounted to JD 107.44 million according to Finance Ministry sources quoted by Al Ra'i newspaper.

The single allocation during this period amounted to JD 32.958 million for defence purposes, they said. According to the sources expenses in the first quarter of this year exceeded by JD 18.217 million those for the same period in 1980.

Internal revenues in the first quarter of 1981 amounted to JD 58.261 million, registering an increase of JD 13.426 million over the 1980 figure.

200m in loans
AMMAN, Aug. 3 (J.T.) — The government secured 24 loans abroad in the last year, for a total amount of JD 207,720,000. This figure included JD 79,520,000 for the government and the rest for public institutions, according to Al Ra'i newspaper.

worlds on Saturday celebrated 'Eid Al Fitr, marking the end of

King, Saddam exchange 'Eid greetings

AMMAN, Aug. 3 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein exchanged good wishes on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in a telephone conversation on Friday.

King Hussein also enquired about the situation along the battlefield with Iran, and paid tribute to the Iraqi armed forces for their successes in defending their homeland in the face of Iranian expansionist designs.

King Hussein wished the Iraqi leader success in leading his country to total victory and also reiterated Jordan's absolute support for the Iraqi people.

On the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and foreign nations.

King praises armed forces in 'Eid remarks

AMMAN, Aug. 3 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday praised the role played by the Jordanian armed forces in defending the Arab Nation and safeguarding its interests and dignity.

Addressing senior officers of the armed forces, the public security, civil defence and public intelligence departments gathered at the Officers' Club in Zarqa to convey their good wishes to him on 'Eid Al Fitr, King Hussein briefly reviewed the role played by these forces which, he said, had "aborted Zionist and imperialist designs in the Arab World since the start of this century."

"The Great Arab Revolt led by Sharif Hussein early in this century came originally to foil these designs aimed at dismembering the Arab Nation, transforming it into shreds of feeble entities incapable of defending them-

selves," King Hussein said. He called on Arab states to mobilize their material and human resources for internal development and to coordinate their policies to foil the designs of their common enemies.

King Hussein reiterated Jordan's condemnation of Israel's raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and its recurrent attacks on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in Lebanon. "These attacks," King Hussein said, "constitute a clear indication that Israel is intent on pursuing its aggressive policy against the Arab Nation in total disregard of the calls of the international community."

Present at the gathering were also the King's two sons, princes Abdullah and Faisal, and the commander-in-chief of the Jordanian armed forces, Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Alia TriStars to Europe capitals

AMMAN, Aug. 3 (J.T.) — The chairman and president of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Mr. Ali Ghandour, has flown to Europe to discuss upgrading Alia's service to European capitals to Lockheed TriStar instead of Boeing 707 flights, the Jordan Times has learned. Alia Vice President for Finance Fahed Faneh has been authorised to assume management responsibilities during Mr. Ghandour's absence.

Telecommunications corporation
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Invitation to tender No. TCC 1/81
on Mobile Telephone Service Project
for the Greater Amman Area.

A. The Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan invites the submission of tender for the provision of a mobile Telephone System for the Greater Amman Area (on turn key basis) in accordance with the tender documents.

B. The tender documents consist of 2 volumes as follows:-
Volume 1: General Conditions of tender and contract
Volume 2: Technical specifications and scope of work.

C. Agents can obtain the tender documents from the Telecommunications Corporation Headquarters in Amman for a price of J.D. 160 (not reimbursable) at the following address:-
Secretary of Tender Committee
Telecommunications Corporation
Jabal Amman / Third Circle
P.O. Box 1689 - Telex 21221
Cable Jortel Amman
Amman - Jordan

D. The latest date for the submission of offers to the Telecommunications Corporation Headquarters in Amman is 11.00 hours Wednesday 4th November, 1981.

E. Tender proposals should be submitted in three copies, each in closed envelope sealed with the red wax, and its cover labeled with the words "Tender No. TCC 1/81 on mobile Telephone System for the Greater Amman Area" each should be clearly marked original, first copy, 2nd copy.

F. All tenderers will be required to submit Bid Bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of tender price with the proposal (original copy).

G. Any subsequent amendments will automatically be forwarded to purchasers of tender documents.

Eng. Mohammad Shahid Issa

Director General

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

* An exhibition of photos submitted in a competition entitled "Inside the Cities of Jordan", at the Holiday Inn Ballroom, in Amman.

* Paintings of Orientalists and contemporary artists from Islamic countries, from the Jordan National Gallery's permanent collection, will be on display at the gallery in Jabal Luweibdeh.

* An exhibition of photographs to promote friendship among peoples, at the Soviet Cultural Centre, near Third Circle in Jabal Amman.

Videotape programme

* Videotape summary of CBS television news for the past week. The tape will be shown at noon on 4 p.m., at the centre's auditorium, off Third Circle in Jabal Amman.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3

- 5:30 Koran
- 5:45 Cartoons
- 6:00 Zena
- 6:25 Children's programme
- 7:10 Programme preview
- 7:25 Local programme
- 8:00 News in Arabic
- 8:30 Arabic series
- 9:30 Local programme on economy
- 10:15 Bestseller
- 11:10 News summary

CHANNEL 6

- 6:00 French Programme
- 7:00 News in French
- 7:30 News in Hebrew
- 8:30 Comedy
- 9:10 Eight is enough
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:15 Bestseller

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHZ AM & 99 MHZ FM

- 7:00 Sign on
- 7:01 Morning Show
- 7:30 News Bulletin
- 7:40 Morning Show
- 10:00 News Headlines
- 10:30 Pop Session
- 11:00 Sign off
- 12:00 News Headlines
- 12:03 Pop Session
- 13:00 News Summary
- 13:03 Pop Session
- 14:00 News Bulletin
- 14:10 Instrumentals
- 14:30 Special Feature
- 15:00 Concert Hour
- 16:00 News Summary
- 16:03 Instrumentals
- 16:30 Old Favourites
- 17:00 Over a Cup of Tea
- 17:30 Pop Session
- 18:00 News Summary
- 18:03 Top Twenty
- 18:30 Top Twenty
- 19:00 News Desk
- 20:00 Music
- 21:00 Evening Show
- 21:03 News Summary
- 21:06 Evening Show
- 22:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHZ

GMT 04:00 Newsdesk 04:30 Serenade

04:45 Financial News 04:55 Reflections 05:00 World News 24 Hours News Summary 05:30 Opera Gallery 06:00 The World Today 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Sarah and Company 07:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 Moment Musical 07:45 Network U.K. 08:00 World News: Reflections 08:15 Europa 08:30 Madrigal 09:00 World News: British Press Review 09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:40 Look Ahead 09:45 Songs of Praise 10:15 Washington Square 10:30 Talking About Music 11:00 World News: News about Britain 11:15 Letter from London 11:25 Scotland This Week 11:30 Sports International 12:00 Radio Newsreel 12:15 Masters of Interpretation 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 13:30 Network U.K. 13:45 A Jolly Good Show 14:30 Lifelines in Medicine 14:45 Network U.K. 15:00 Radio Newsreel 15:15 Outlook 15:00 World News: Commentary 16:15 The Movie Moguls 16:45 The World Today 17:00 World News: Meridian 17:40 Scotland This Week 17:45 Sports Round-up 18:00 World News: News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsreel 18:30 Promenade Concerts 18:40 Farming World 19:00 Outlook: News Summary 19:30 Stock Market Report 19:43 Look Ahead 19:45 Serenade 20:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 20:30 Shakespeare Lady 21:15 The Golden Age of Pop 21:30 The Movie Moguls 22:00 World News: The World Today 22:25 Scotland This Week 22:30 Financial News: 22:40 Reflections 22:45 Sports Round-up 23:00 World News: Commentary 23:15 Classical Record Review 23:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT (03:30 The Breakfast Show: 06:30 News, Pop music, features, listeners' questions. 17:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses. 17:30 Dateline 18:00 Special English: news, feature "The Making of a Nation." 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses. 19:30 VOA Magazine: Americana, science, culture, letters. 20:00 Special English: news. 20:15 Music USA (Jazz) 21:00 VOA World Report 22:00 News. Correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, analyses.

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

- 7:40 Cairo (EA)
- 8:55 Agaba
- 9:30 Jeddah
- 9:40 Kuwait
- 9:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi
- 9:55 Beirut
- 10:00 Dhahran
- 10:10 Beirut
- 10:30 Larnaca
- 11:05 Riyadh (SV)
- 11:40 London
- 15:30 Kuwait (KU)
- 16:00 Rhodes
- 16:10 Copenhagen, Athens (SAS)
- 16:30 Cairo
- 17:10 Kuwait
- 17:15 New York, Amsterdam
- 17:25 London (BA)
- 17:30 Paris
- 17:35 Brussels, Geneva
- 17:35 Paris
- 17:45 Frankfurt
- 17:55 Madrid, Athens
- 18:00 Cairo (EA)
- 18:30 Rome
- 19:00 Cairo
- 19:00 Cairo (EA)
- 19:35 Frankfurt (LH)
- 19:55 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
- 20:00 Beirut (MEA)
- 21:00 Damascus
- 21:50 Kuwait (KU)
- 23:00 New York, Amsterdam
- 23:40 Cairo (EA)
- 23:55 Baghdad
- 01:00 Cairo
- 01:00 Baghdad

DEPARTURES

- 6:30 Beirut
- 7:00 Agaba
- 7:15 Larnaca
- 7:50 Paris (AF)
- 8:55 Cairo (EA)
- 9:25 Beirut (MEA)
- 10:10 Rome
- 11:00 Vienna, New York
- 11:10 Athens, Copenhagen
- 11:30 Cairo
- 12:00 London
- 12:00 Kuwait
- 12:05 Riyadh (SV)
- 12:30 Rhodes
- 12:40 Cairo (EA)
- 13:00 Cairo
- 16:00 Cairo
- 16:30 Kuwait (KAC)
- 18:45 Damascus
- 18:50 Abu Dhabi
- 19:00 Kuwait
- 19:20 Dhahran

EMERGENCIES

- Amman: Abdul Halim Al Afghani (Wahdat) (-)
- Hashem Mahmoud (Wadi Al Haddadeh)
- Irbid: Fakhri Haddad (-)
- Zarqa: Musa Odeh 82049

DOCTORS:

- Amman: Al Salam 36730
- Shadi 25655
- Jabal Amman 25044
- Irbid: Al Quds 3443
- Zarqa: Al Urdun 23050
- Basman 57636
- Mihyar 44574
- Al Sabah 76748

PHARMACIES:

- Amman: Al Salam 36730
- Shadi 25655
- Jabal Amman 25044
- Irbid: Al Quds 3443
- Zarqa: Al Urdun 23050
- Basman 57636
- Mihyar 44574
- Al Sabah 76748

TAXIS:

- Firas 23427
- Al Urdun 23050
- Basman 57636
- Mihyar 44574
- Al Sabah 76748

CULTURAL CENTRES

- American Centre 41520
- British Council 36147-8
- French Cultural Centre 37009
- Goethe Institute 41993
- Soviet Cultural Centre 42023
- Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
- Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
- Hays Arts Centre 65195
- Al Hussein Youth City 67181
- Y.W.C.A. 41793
- Y.W.M.A. 64251
- Amman Municipal Library 36111
- University of Jordan Library 84355/84366

SERVICE CLUBS

- Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel.

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 23316

Popular Life of Jordan Museum:

100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169

Jordan Archaeological Museum:

Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.) Closed on Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery:

Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Tel. 30128

PRAYER TIMES

- Fajr 3:09
- Sunrise 4:50
- Dhuhr 11:45
- Asr 3:20
- Maghreb 6:40
- 'Isha 8:50

Local Exchange Rates

Because of the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday, our daily exchange rates table does not appear today. It will resume as usual in tomorrow's Jordan Times.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Ambulance (government) 75111
- Civil Defence rescue 61111
- Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 36381-2
- Municipal water service (emergency) 37111-3
- Police headquarters 39141
- Najdeh roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency 21111, 37777
- Airport information (ALIA) 92205/92206
- Jordan Television 73111
- Radio Jordan 74111
- Fire, fire, police 2700
- Fire headquarters 36381-2
- Cablegram or telegram
- Telephones: Information Jordan and Middle East trunk calls Overseas radio and satellite calls Telephone maintenance and repair service

MARKET PRICES

- Potatoes (local) 120
- Grape leaves 260
- Bananas 260
- Apples (African, Japanese) 410
- Apples (American, Chilean, Red) 430
- Apples (American, Chilean, Green) 390
- Apples (Double Red) 250
- Apples (Starken) 200
- Melons 140
- Water Melons 80
- Plums (Red) 220
- Plums (Yellow) 220
- Apricots 150
- Cherries 300
- Lemons 380
- Oranges (Valencia, Waxed) 120
- Oranges (Waxed) 170
- Grapefruit 160
- Tomatoes 60
- Eggplant 120
- Potatoes (imported) 150
- Marrow (small) 130
- Marrow (large) 80
- Cucumber (small) 100
- Cucumber (large) 80
- Fava beans 60
- Peanut 150
- Fennel 160
- Okra (Green) 160
- Okra (Red) 160
- Muloukhiyah 60
- Hot Green Pepper 150
- Cabbage 60
- Onions (dry) 100
- Garlic 150
- Carrots 130

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

مركز الامم



Za'mut



Jalel Fhattab



Adnan Takroui



Paul Warsaw

The Royal Falcons: Jordan's aerobatic ambassadors



Falcons perform a smoke display over the English Channel

OR'S NOTE: This is the first 10-part series

Suzanne Za'mut-Black special to the Jordan Times

NAMES of Amman, Zarqa and Hebron rang out in the Paris one June day as tens of thousands of people watched young pilots from those wheels their pits special air-through tight formation in the sequences.

The occasion was the 1981 Paris show at le Bourget, and the men -- Hani Za'mut, Jalel Fhattab and Adnan Takroui -- are pilots of the Royal Jordanian Falcons aerobatic team. In days of the show they entertain almost a million spectators with their immaculate, disciplined and thrilling performances.

le Bourget show, held every two years, is the showcase of world aviation, and is the largest gathering of its kind. Representatives of

all the major airlines attend, and the Royal Falcons were there as the ambassadors of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline; of Jordan itself, and of the whole Arab World. They were the only performing pilots from a non-western country.

The team's professional displays evoked such an enthusiastic response that the Gallie calm of the announcer cracked. As one Alia vice president said, "One could hear the French announcer's voice quaver with emotion as he was giving detailed information on the team's work and background."

The team's pleased director, Capt. Paul Warsaw, said, "I mingled with the crowds and heard nothing but unrestrained enthusiastic remarks in praise of the Falcons' display."

From le Bourget the Royal Falcons travelled to Greenham Common in the south of England to take part in the International

Air Tattoo. This is a military show rivaling le Bourget in prestige, but organised to support the charitable Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

The only civilian team participating, the Falcons again drew unlimited admiration from the usually restrained British spectators: a satisfying conclusion to their visits to these two giants amongst the air shows.

From Jordan to Florida

As presently constituted, the Royal Jordanian Falcons came into being in April 1978, when three freshly graduated commercial pilots from the Royal Jordanian Air Academy were selected by Alia to go the United States for formation and aerobatic training. In a limited way, they had already experienced the demands of flying on Bulldog training aircraft at the academy.

The pilots, Hani Za'mut, Jalel

Fhattab and William Farid, joined Capt. Warsaw's flying school at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for a period of six weeks. At the end of that time they had persuaded their not unreluctant mentor to become their director and return to Jordan with them.

Since then, through rigorous training sessions, the team has enhanced its skills and perfected its sequences to the present high level of professionalism.

When weather permits, the pilots fly three hours daily, and before each flight have a detailed briefing. Later, performance is analysed at debriefing sessions, where videotape recordings of their manoeuvres are studied.

Since its creation three years ago, only one change has been made in the team, when William Farid moved on to join Alia. He was replaced by Adnan Takroui, a flying instructor from the Air Academy.

Adnan, 25, comes from Hebron

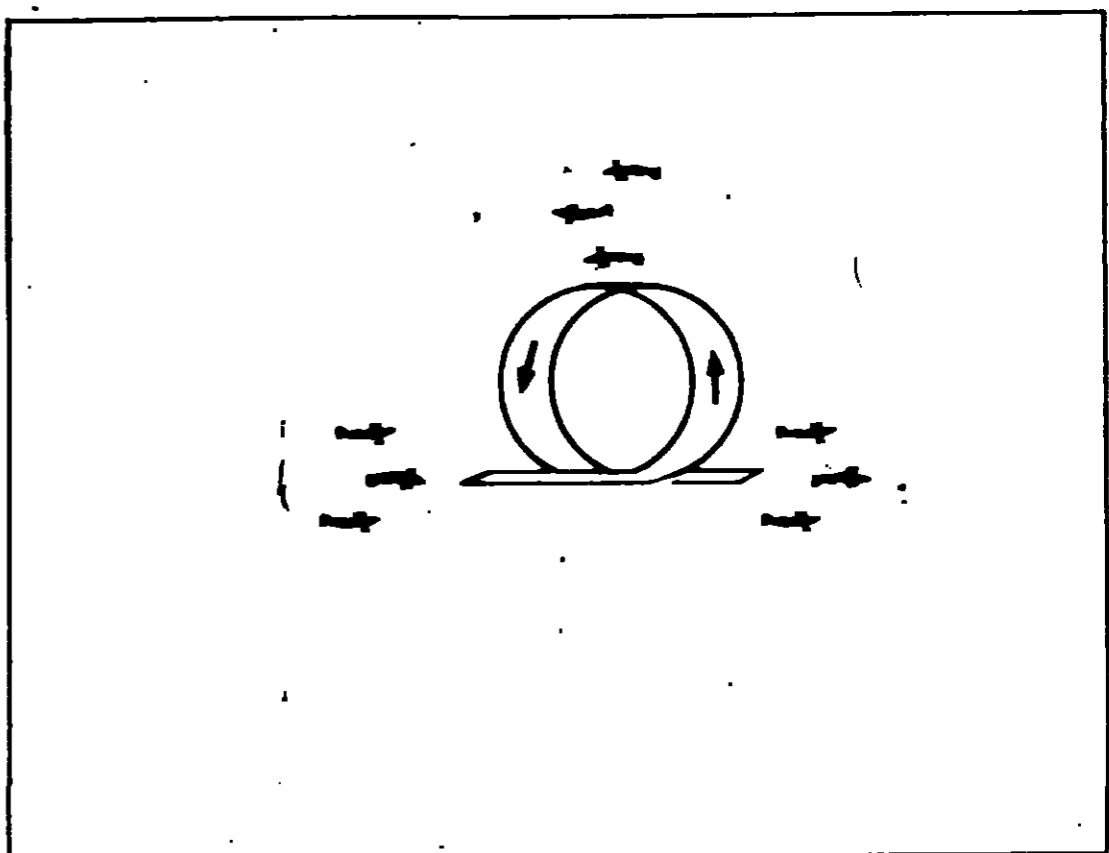
and Jalel Kattab, also 25, was born in Zarqa. Hani Za'mut at 26 the old man of the team, was born in Amman.

When the Jordan Times talked to the team, their director said, "They are all incredible lads who have done exceptionally well. They have had to overcome a lot of obstacles; but kept at it until now, they are one of the best aerobatic teams in the world. We are well on our way to being as good as, if not better than, the American Eagles team."

"We are the only full-time civilian team in the world, and so there is no reason for us not to do so, unless we lack the opportunity for reasons outside our control."

His comments were endorsed by vigorous nods from all team members.

They all acknowledge that constant training and concentration are needed in this kind of flying, and if practice is stopped for a month, it takes at least a week of



The outside loop: imposing super stress on man and machine

hard flying to regain the previous level of performance and tolerance.

Super stress

A flying instructor at the Royal Jordanian Air Academy explained the kind of stresses which must be tolerated by these pilots:

During aerobatic manoeuvres rapid and continuous changes of direction occur. This imposes strong forces on both man and machine.

The effect on the pilot is an increase or decrease in weight. In "positive" manoeuvres the force pulling the pilot down may increase five-fold or even more, and in "negative" manoeuvres he will tend to be thrown away from his seat, with a force perhaps three times his own weight.

The result of too much "positive G" is that the pilot will find it increasingly difficult even to lift his hand. In extreme cases the blood will be too heavy to reach the brain, and he will black out. This is not a recommended situation when flying only a few metres from another aircraft.

In "negative" manoeuvres blood is forced into the head, and an excess of "negative G" can flood the eye cells, resulting in a "redout" -- which seriously impairs the vision.

Through constant practice and physical discipline, aerobatic pilots like the Falcons can extend their physiological and psychological tolerances far beyond what the untrained person could withstand. Hence the need for concentrated flying after an inactive period.

One of the more difficult manoeuvres performed by the team is the "outside loop", in which the formation begins from the inverted position and pushes the nose of the aircraft up towards, and over, the vertical. Apart from the "negative G" imposed, the aircraft reach such a low speed at the crest of the manoeuvre that the pilot has almost no control, and safety is ensured only by earlier precision.

In formation flying, Hani is in the lead and is responsible for the safety of the team. He has to scan all around and be aware of what is happening outside the aircraft. Jalel and Adnan, however, the right and left wingmen, can watch only the lead plane as their

point of reference.

Asked about the danger of their work, the members of the team concurred in the responses.

"It's more dangerous on the streets of Amman," Hani said. "It's not dangerous at all. We play everything safe," Adnan said firmly.

"We build fast reflexes," Jalel elaborated. "We set limits for our practice, outside of which we do not fly. This includes the weather, the altitude and speed."

Hani then gave an example of the limits he would set for a "loop".

"If I do not have a minimum of 200 feet above ground and a minimum speed of 140 miles an hour, I do not do the manoeuvre," he explained. "Such decisions may happen during practice, but hardly ever during displays, because each sequence is rehearsed to perfection."

For the Falcons, one and all, flying is not just a job but rather a way of life. "The ultimate thing in

flying is aerobatics," stated Jalel. "I will always be involved in aerobatics even if I have to do something else" (related to the sport), said Hani.

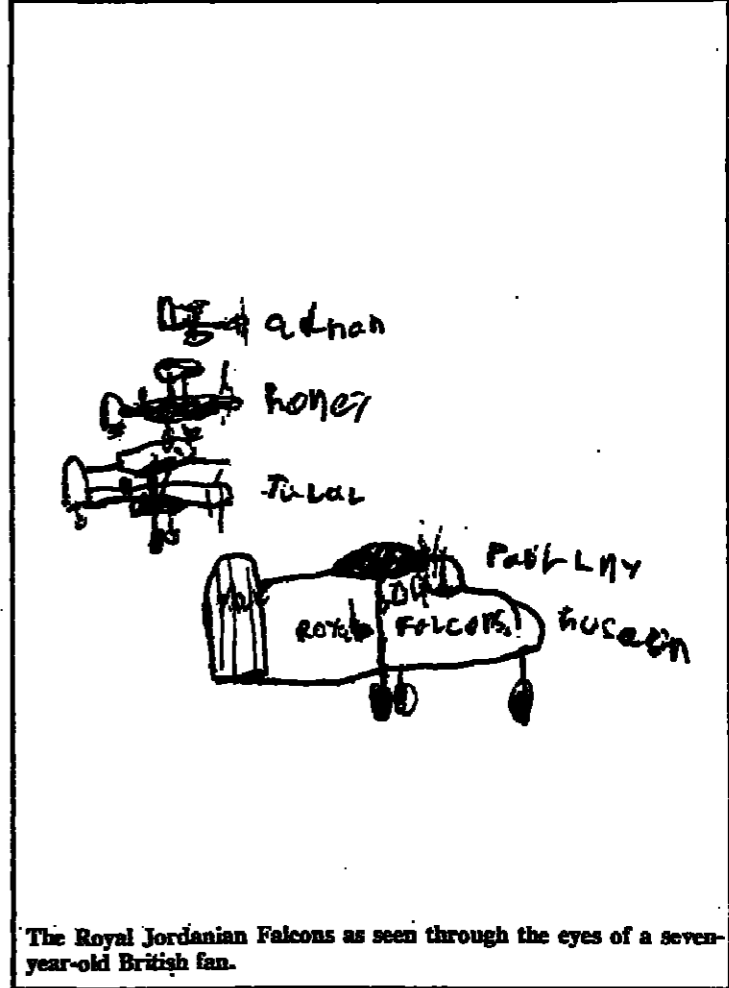
"I'd like to fly anything that flies," Adnan declared.

While in England on their last tour, the Falcons all soloed on gliders after a record of only two short training flights each, to the utter amazement of the trainer there.

However, they all admit to some drawbacks in their work. When on tour, they are away from home for as long as four months at a time, and this keeps them separated from their families.

"I have a wife a child," Hani said, "and will not be able to continue this lifestyle indefinitely."

They also point out the hectic checking in and out of hotels, and long periods spent waiting. Sometimes they have to stand on their feet all day to fly for 10 minutes, or hang around waiting for the weather to clear.



The Royal Jordanian Falcons as seen through the eyes of a seven-year-old British fan.



POLITICAL HORIZON

The present Arab-Israeli situation: War or peace? II

By Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber

IN LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE we discussed at least three possible options that lie ahead. The first one, namely, war and peace the second, peace and how we should begin to tackle it seriously, and the last option which we mentioned was the prospects of war. Needless to say it is necessary to assess the Arab situation thoroughly in the case of any one of the above mentioned options. Unfortunately however, we sit and wait letting events move us rather than instigating or causing them ourselves.

Peace is sweet and everybody wants it. In fact, even Mr. Begin says, in the most solemn manner, that he wants peace. We too want peace because we are a peaceful people and because we sincerely need and want it. Yet that is the shape of the peace that we want? Again, what is the maximum that we are, or may be, looking for, and what is the minimum that we may accept? Have we abandoned any hope of liberation? If so, why? And how can we explain that to our people? How can we explain it to ourselves? Surely there is logic in hoping for and working towards peace. And just as surely we can proffer some very good and convincing arguments for peace to ourselves and to the world. Yet again

we must define what we hope for, and the least we will accept. War is an ugly affair... all the uglier when it is imposed on a people, like the Arabs, whose basic nature is peaceful. It is also the uglier since it distorts not only the aggressor but also the victim. It warps both and, in so many ways, it is difficult to count. This, in addition to its waste in human emotion, energy, resources and thought. Ultimately, and in humanitarian terms, it rarely produces true heroes. That is why war, as an alternative, should be considered with utmost care. While saying this, there is a recognition that as far as the past wars - or were they battles - with Israel are concerned none of them was provoked or planned for by the

Arabs. They just drifted into them as if the matter had been an after thought. Some would say they were led into them baited by the Israelis who set the timing, decided on the tools and chose the battlefield. No rational human being who is even half-aware or partly conscious of the modern techniques and tools of destruction would opt for war unless it were the last, perhaps even the ultimate recourse. Do we want that option? If so when, where, how and why? What are we willing to sacrifice and how much? Are we prepared, preparing, or will we be preparing for it? In what type of war do we want to engage our adversary? Classical? semi-classical? Or a people's war? And now we are even

faced with the prospects of a nuclear war. Is this what we want? Surely, the concept itself, in addition to the timing, the tools and the methodology need to be considered and planned for. All of the above options are in desperate need of serious consideration and study taking into account not only the strategy as we often do, but also the tactic to reach that strategy. All of these options necessitate that certain conditions be met before we can even begin to talk about them to the rest of the world. The absolute minimum would seem that Arab solidarity becomes a reality rather than the empty slogan that it currently is. How that can be achieved is another

preliminary that needs much home-work before it can be achieved. Considering Egypt's current situation, is there a way it can be altered to benefit the Arab cause? The tragedy of our situation is that it can be reversed. It is not a God-ordained situation and something can be done about it. Yet nothing is being done. With all the respect and deference to the leaders of the Arab World, would seem that we need a little more than their limited inspired intuition. In tackling the dark days that lie ahead we should begin to introduce a scientific approach into our planning and process of thinking. Is it not time yet?

David strikes again

THE ABILITY of Israel to play David to the American Goliath is illustrated again this week with the announcement of the "policy guidelines" that have been worked out for the new coalition government of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. These guidelines emphasise Israel's claim to eternal sovereignty over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They also stressed Israel's belief that the Camp David autonomy proposal "was a guarantee that a Palestinian state will not be created in the Land of Israel," in the words of Israeli Finance Minister Yoram Aridor.

This view contrasts starkly with the vehement insistence of American officials immediately after the Camp David agreements were worked out in the autumn of 1978. American officials insisted then that the phased Israeli withdrawal from Sinai should be seen by the Arabs as a model of what would later happen in the West Bank and Gaza. It was a cardinal element of American policy then that the Arabs should "trust" the American leadership and accept vague promises that the West Bank and Gaza would be evacuated in the same manner as the Sinai.

The realities of the past three years have shown that American hopes were naive and exaggerated. Time and Mr. Begin's contempt for accepted international legal and ethical codes of conduct have proved to us once again that the lack of an American policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and the inability of American leaders to face up to their responsibilities for the actions of the Israeli government combine to deepen the lack of credibility of America in the Arab World. This is what we conclude from a reading of the policy guidelines for the new Israeli government.

Will the gap widen in Euro-Arab relations?

By Andrew Gowers

BRUSSELS — Just over a year after it began to hunt for a mediating role in the Middle East, the European Economic Community (EEC) is making little headway in attempts to strengthen relations with the Arab World. Officials and diplomats at the EEC headquarters express serious doubts that a meeting between European and Arab ministers set for November will take place this year.

Arab sources say the Gulf between the Common Market and Arab countries appears at least as wide as it was when the EEC launched its much-publicised initiative for peace in the Middle East in Venice last year.

A group of Arab ambassadors recently delivered a note to Belgian Foreign Minister Charles-Ferdinand Norhomb and to Britain's Common Market envoy, Sir Michael Butler, airing their disquiet about the EEC's attitude to the Middle East.

Europe had lost interest in searching for real peace in the area, the note said, warning that the state of political relations is bound to have a bearing on the continued development of Euro-Arab economic links.

The planned November conference in Brussels, which would bring together foreign ministers from the 10 EEC states and the 22 members of the Arab League, was intended to mark the formal relaunch of the so-called "Euro-Arab dialogue" covering the whole gamut of relations.

The dialogue was broken off in April 1979, when Egypt was ejected from the Arab League after its Camp David agreements with Israel.

Prospects for a thaw seemed brighter last year. The two sides met in Luxembourg in November to talk about resuming the dialogue, and as a result a host of working groups on specific and largely technical areas of cooperation were set up.

They are still working, but the Europeans and Arabs are finding it hard to identify any common ground on the bigger issues such as clear European recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), according to Arab

sources. The tense atmosphere in the Middle East, with a fragile ceasefire in the Lebanon and a continuing war between Iraq and Iran, does not help. And internal dissensions in the Arab camp have more than once stalled the possibility of talks. As a result, although the conference has been on the agenda since the end of last year, its date has been repeatedly pushed back.

Slow-moving EEC

"The Common Market seems to move at the pace of its slowest member, said one Arab representative here. "They always seem to be waiting for something: first it was the U.S. elections, then elections in France and Israel."

Since the Middle East initiative was launched it has yielded few concrete results. Earlier this year, Dutch Foreign Minister Christiaan de Kluuwer toured the area on behalf of the EEC and submitted a confidential report on his findings to his fellow Common Market ministers.

But at a summit meeting in Luxembourg at the end of June, EEC leaders took no new decisions on the subject.

Originally the EEC initiative was looking for an overall solution to the problem, taking in both the future of the Palestinians and that of Israel.

But new French President Francois Mitterrand, who is known to be more friendly to Israel than his predecessor, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, told the summit he favoured the United States' step-by-step approach, and his plea was not rejected.

Arab ambassadors here feel this represents backsliding by the EEC, which had previously been attempting to operate independently of the United States. European countries were now acting in tandem with the Camp David accords, which the Arab World opposes, the envoys said in their note to Mr. Norhomb.

Arab sources said they did not detect any bad will towards the Euro-Arab dialogue in the Common Market, only timidity, with some EEC governments distinctly less friendly to the idea of PLO recognition than others.

Reuter

AHMED BEN BELLA, the first President of Independent Algeria, hero of one of the bloodiest anti-colonial struggles the world has seen, and one of the few founding fathers of the non-aligned movement still alive, has emerged from nearly two decades of forced isolation deeply disappointed by the loss of vision and political will in the Third World, but determined to contribute again to its changing course of history.

He was in London last month on one of his first visits abroad since his release from prison and house arrest to thank Amnesty International and the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation for their efforts during 15 years to get him freed.

He blames much on the present Third World leadership for accepting, without thought, First World models for development and consumption which have produced grasping elites and the brutal musical chairs of military coups. "We need more humane men. The phenomenon of a ruling class with privileged groups, corruption, rulers afraid of their own people... all this is aberration."

He says of his child, the non-aligned movement: "Of course I'm disappointed, you can not say the movement has created a separate force, capable of influencing events, a force outside the established camps. Look at Fidel Castro, the current President of the non-aligned movement. You can't say he is nonaligned."

He sees himself no longer as a politician talking to heads of state ("though there are perhaps some men of integrity like Nyerere") but as a teacher transmitting to the young the ideas and the spirit of the men who liberated Africa and Asia from colonialism. His directness, modesty and fertility of thought, along with the long years of confinement and reflection, will no doubt serve him well.

Ben Bella is in a unique and delicate position in Third World politics where it has become the sad norm for a man who loses power to lie low in exile if he is not actually in prison.

He was freed from house arrest by President Chadli Benjedid last year and given a state pension and the freedom of expression he is cautiously beginning to use. The act of clemency to the former President (who was never in fact accused of any crime by the man who overthrew him, Colonel Houari Boumediene, who died in December 1979) is a tribute to President Chadli. Perhaps he will pave the way for other brilliant men who have been the casualties of a power struggle in the Third World and ended up, at best, as

Ben Bella on new order for Third World

By Victoria Brittain

fodder for international bureaucracies. In the interview Ben Bella spoke fast, quietly, completely at ease and unguarded even about subjects he does not want to be quoted on yet. The old magnetism that drew European leftists to give up their jobs and flock to Algiers in 1963 to build a new society with this man is undeniably still there.

He believes that "it is absolutely necessary that the countries of the Third World create a new system alongside the existing one. We were 40 Afro-Asian countries when we decided on this in 1965. I still think we were right." The coup against him took place the night before the conference opened, and it was called off. "The Afro-Asian movement died that night."

"Of course creating a new system won't be easy. The capitalist world won't let it happen easily. The capitalist world has functioned for four centuries, and functioned very well, based upon one idea - exploitation. Change calls for real political will. I don't think at present this political will is a strong current."

He says he wouldn't wait for the North-South dialogue to lead to something, but would start with a South-South dialogue. The idea is in keeping with his most basic prescription for the Third World's development - "auto-gestion" (self-management).

Today he talks about this in a much wider sense than in 1963 when it was the catch-phrase with which Algerian workers took over the old French colon farms and vineyards. Today it implies worker's control over factories too and a general decentralisation of administration.

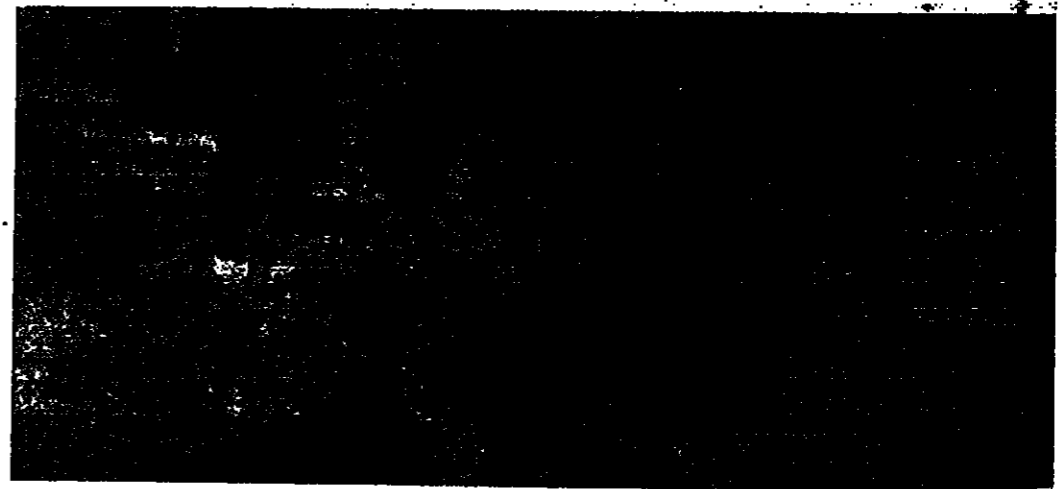
"It should become the mode of management of all societies, for the Third World and the North too. The function of all theology, philosophy and religion is not to

accumulate goods, but to create men, to invest in men and make them responsible. The Third World must escape from the Western pattern of the centre consuming the periphery." He means it both in the international system of the Third World's dependence on the West, and in the internal economic patterns of countries. He is resolutely optimistic about the possibility of dramatic change for the Third World, based on two resources - Islam and youth. For him the Iranian revolution - "it's Islamic, not only Iranian" - is a "spectacular example of what is happening elsewhere. Our youth fills the mosques. Huge numbers of young people are coming back. They reject the Western model. They feel aggrieved by a cultural model."

He hopes to go to Iran himself to understand the revolution. "The media creates opinion in the West. They have not been very fair to Iran. I prefer to take a closer look. There are strands within the Iranian revolution which are very, very progressive." As for the bloodshed in Iran, "we should be very careful when we speak of blood. Where I come from not long ago we lost a million and a half people to become free."

Ben Bella is still a socialist, but "personally I think from Islam you can construct a system which goes beyond the stage of socialism. Islam postulates the totally communal society. On the basis of that the legislator can go far." Arriving in Europe last month he was overwhelmed by "a real sense of freedom" and warmed by the welcomes on the streets of Paris from people for whom he had been either terrorist extraordinaire 20 years ago, or the man who triggered the end of the French colonialism.

But there is a shadow over the pleasure of Paris or London. "The consumer society - it is really striking, flagrant, more so than I was expecting from a distance. But it is not what one sees that is so shocking, so much as the reflections it gives rise to... when you think that as I speak now, 20 million people in the world are dying of hunger - 15 million are children. The gap between rich and poor countries has widened in his last years. At independence we in the Third World were already marginalised. Now the gap grows. Americans have an average income of \$10,000 and a Malien has \$200. There are 41 countries which can't pay the interest on their debts - not pay back the debt, that's out of the question."



Ahmed Ben Bella

There's been a drift philosophically. This wish to consume, just consume, with all its propaganda has created a type, in my view abusive and egotistical, who lives for himself, excuse my saying this, sends his old parents to die in a home - that is the end of civilisation."

Ben Bella's authority and intellectual energy appear increased rather than diminished by his 15 years in prison and house arrest. He spent his time reading and studying a flow of books and newspapers sent in by friends. He was allowed no correspondence with professors or intellectuals, but devised his own reading programme in every subject from economics and political theory to child development. "One book sustained me - the Koran." He has been devoutly religious all his life, he says, and entered anti-French politics through that route as a young boy.

He says that it is because of his religion that he had the self-discipline never to get depressed by his isolation or to let up on his study programme. Religion is also the key to the extraordinary lack of bitterness towards the man who deprived him of so much - Colonel Houari Boumediene, his former friend and army commander. "I expected a coup attempt from him every day from liberation on, except the day he did it. The Afro-Asian summit was so important I could not have imagined anyone would have

jeopardised it. He did it of course because he knew I meant to mantle the army - I should have done it sooner. Col. Boumediene ordered Ben Bella kept in an underground for eight months with no food. He was never allowed to go to mosque, or even to his own wedding or his mother's funeral. Bitterness is something I learned to overcome."

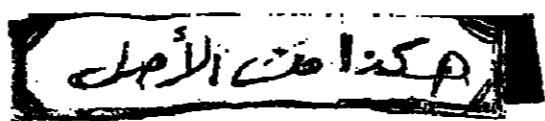
Such personal inner strength and integrity no doubt indicated President Chadli that any risk, took in freeing Ben Bella was not a risk from Ben Bella himself. "Personal power in Algeria completely out of the question. But if being an ex-President makes people listen to what I say there is nothing wrong with exploiting that position."

In 1977 Ben Bella had been years alone, sustained by his from his mother. Before she died the old lady arranged a marriage so her son would be looked after. It was a brilliant ploy: Zohra was young, pretty and passionately idealistic and ready to exploit that position."

Ben Bella's private life exemplifies the ideals they stand for. In three years, one abandoned one black and one handicapped. The wives of Third World leaders on visits to London usually spend their time shopping for the glittering luxuries of the First World in her two days here last week Mrs. Ben Bella took a train to small Christian community mail equipment for handicapped children to do her shopping."

Victoria Brittain was recently the Guardian's Africa correspondent, and lived in Algeria for two years.

From the Guardian



The dig that became a 'scientific and artistic adventure'

Fifteen hundred years ago, there was hardly a church in the Holy Land that was not adorned in mosaic tile. You can see the most precious and splendid of these now in Madaba and on Mt. Nebo...

By Isobel Fister

ONE OF the most controversial sites in Biblical archaeology is a spot called Siyagha, on the summit of Mt. Nebo in Jordan's Moab mountains overlooking the eastern shores of the Dead Sea. It's been fought over since earliest Christian times — not in physical combat, but in numerous heated and frequently interminable debates. Is it or is it not the site of the tomb of Moses? The other site that claims that honour is west of the sea, on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem.

The argument is a difficult one to settle. The Bible, however, does say, "And the Lord buried him in the land of Moab, but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day." In the fourth century A.D., a shepherd boy boldly defied the Lord's secret by proclaiming that he had seen in a vision the exact location of the tomb — on top of

Mt. Nebo. Soon after, Christians began building shrines on the spot, and by the end of that century there was a small church there.

Detailed descriptions of this first church are recorded in the memoirs of a pious Roman nun. She was Egeria (or Etheria, depending on your sources), who set determined feet on a thorough-going pilgrimage of the Holy Land to visit every sacred place.

The tomb of Moses was one of them, but at the arduous climb to Nebo, her feet rebelled. Mounting a donkey, Egeria urged it up the rough mountain track to the summit, where she "came to a church, not a very big one, right on the summit of Mt. Nebo, and inside, in the position of the pulpit I saw a slightly raised place about the size of a normal tomb."

She was clearly in a monastery, and notes that when she asked about the tomb, "the holy men

replied, 'Holy Moses was buried here by angels, since the Bible tells us, no human being knoweth his burial.'" They had no doubt about the site and added, "The actual tomb where he was buried can be seen today. Our predecessors told us that his tradition came from their predecessors." Evidently, the site had already become legendary by the time Egeria got there at the end of the fourth century.

Egeria says also that the little church was kept by Egyptian monks. Copts? Probably. By the next century, another pilgrim, Peter the Iberian, visited the sanctuary twice, and recalls that he saw the memorial or cenotaph in a large church or basilica.

These ancient descriptions are now confirmed by the findings of archaeological excavations that have been going on at Siyagha since 1933. The big sixth-century basilica which is being restored today rests upon well-identified remains of the fifth-century church visited by the Iberian. Beneath that have been found sections of the floors, walls, tombs and fonts of the church Egeria saw. The most exciting discovery of all occurred when the complete floor in the *diakonicon* (deacon's hall) of the fifth-century church was uncovered. Revealed in perfect preservation was one of the

most beautiful early Christian mosaics ever found anywhere.

The pilgrim nun's little church was nestled on the ruins of a classical Roman *cella trichora*, or three-apsed structure. Excavations confirmed that the church was quite a small one, and that it was enlarged into a basilica with three aisles and decorated with a mosaic floor in the late fifth century. A century later it was totally destroyed by earthquake, but by the end of the sixth century the church had been rebuilt and further enlarged to include a baptistery and a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Gradually, a cluster of cells and houses for monks and priests was also added. Again the church floors were adorned in new mosaic, even that of the *diakonicon*, where the earlier mosaic was still in excellent condition. This is the traditional, three-aisled basilica we see today, the floors of which have been carefully removed to unearth the earlier, more splendid mosaic masterpiece.

But why was it covered? There are two theories. Perhaps in enlarging the church it was necessary to raise the floor level, which demanded the laying of a new tile decoration. Or perhaps covering it was a protective measure. During the sixth-century iconoclastic movement that was prevalent in the area, many Christian works of art suffered. Perhaps the monks, fearing its destruction, laid a new floor over the precious old one, intending to remove it once the danger was over. But they never did, and the mosaic beauty lay hidden for almost 1,500 years before it was brought to light.

Through the centuries many travellers have recorded their visits to Mt. Nebo, and we can follow the decay and disappearance of all the handsome shrines that once graced the spot. A Portuguese Franciscan monk who visited the site in 1564 records that the buildings on the summit were in ruin, and abandoned, but that he found a small church still in use at 'Ain Musa (Moses' Spring) in a valley just to the north.

Abandoned it stayed, until the late 19th century, when the American Exploration Society watched over it for a few decades. It was not, however, until 1931 that a group of Franciscans from Jerusalem really began restoration of the site. Led by Father Sylvester Saller of the Franciscan Biblical Institute of Jerusalem, they prodded at the ruins, reported on them, and managed to

acquire rights to the site for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

In 1933, Fr. Saller led a first excavation of the site that proved so fruitful and exciting that his team returned again in 1935 and in 1937. It was then that the marvellous wealth of the sixth-century sacred building was revealed, with its shrines, mosaics, tombs and altars.

These Franciscans set up the columns they found in disarray and re-established the three-aisled basilica form. They found many fragments of mosaics, remains of rooms, baptistries, corridors and one large floor. But all these were only a top layer concealing the greater wonders underneath that have come to light since.

Other Franciscans resumed work on the site in the 1960s, knowing that the sixth-century layer was only a prelude to the fifth and the fourth below. But the war in 1967 turned Mt. Nebo into a battlefield, and stopped work at the most tantalising moment. Then, in the summer of 1976, a young Franciscan, Fr. Michele Piccirillo, was given the task of carrying on the excavations. With a team of restorers and mosaicists

from Rome, Ravenna, Como and Spain, they first removed the layer of sixth-century mosaics in the northern aisle and the *diakonicon*, then began excavating in depth the jumble of history below. In some places, after thorough exploration, the top mosaic layer was restored and laid back down again. In other areas, where more beautiful treasures were uncovered, the upper mosaic layer has been permanently removed and is being placed on a nearby wall.

The prize among these treasures, the discovery of which remains an unforgettable adventure for all the members of the team, was the glorious tapestry of a mosaic — 5 by 5.5 metres in size — an entire floor, of animals, trees, hunters afoot and on horseback. To top the climactic find, there were five lines — each over four metres in length — of Greek inscription, giving the exact date of its execution.

Another excitement was unearthing the ancient baptismal font still perfectly in place just beyond the top border of the mosaic. It is a cross-shaped basin of masonry with steps down into its lowest level, and a channel for bringing in hot or cold water. (Lucky children

to be baptised in this deluxe font).

It was all a magnificent find. The mosaic, the earliest dated of its size yet discovered in Jordan, is quite different in design from most of the works found nearby in Madaba and Mukhaiyat. The composition is admirable. It depicts with high artistry various scenes of rural life, and is in style a grand rival to the Persian miniatures. Designed like a carpet, the diverse figures and their activities are framed in an abstract, patterned border. In the lower portion of this pastoral landscape is a gracefully stylised ostrich, with a leash around its neck, being led by a long-robed and pigtailed slave. Here, too, are a zebra and a curious, spotted camel. Above, in the distance under a tree, sits a shepherd with his grazing flock of sheep. Further above are the huntsmen and their prey, in an animated scene of big game hunting, including elephant, lion and tiger.

Of historical importance was finding also completely intact the inscription with its date: "By divine Grace, at the time of our father and pastor Elias, beloved by God, the holy *diakonicon* of God was rebuilt and adorned ... in

the ninth indication of the year 425 of the Province (which means Arabia, A.D. 531) for the salvation of Moustileios advocate at Sergia his wife and ... of Philadephus advocate ... and all their kith and kin. Amen, Lord."

Also uncovered, a smaller pan at the foot of the large picture piece is decorated in a simple floral motif. It bears simply the names of the artists who completed the work: "... Remember Soelos and Kaiom and Elias the mosaicists and the whole families."

The creative skill of the ancient mosaicists has been equalled the work of Fr. Michele's team. Repairing and restoring mosaic all over the church, they have turned one of the aisles of the basilica into a workshop. Here, trays of tesserae stand, in the colours of black, red, ochre and white. Here are the tools of cement bags and wheelbarrow. Here, the dedicated young men work with medieval precision restore marvels of another very early age. As Fr. Michele says, "Far from being a routine job, the excavation has become scientific and artistic adventure... (From Jordan Magazine)



Selected mosaicists were brought from Europe to undertake the delicate and exacting task of restoration. Here the team is laying on a new cement bed upon which to transfer a mosaic section.



Lively details of a huntsman attacking a wild boar. While the animals are most ferociously concerned, the hunter appears bored and indifferent.

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Foreign ministers complete preparations for summit

Haves, have-nots to meet in October

CANCUN, Mexico, Aug. 3 (R) — Foreign ministers from 22 countries have completed preparations in this Mexican beach resort for the first summit devoted solely to economic relations between the world's developed "North" and impoverished "South."

The ministers from rich and poor countries agreed after a weekend meeting that their leaders would meet in Cancun in October for informal discussions about major economic topics of international concern.

These were listed as: the reactivation of the world economy, the world food problem, basic commodities, trade and industrialisation, energy and international financial policies.

Co-chairmen of the conference, Mexico's Jorge Castaneda and Willibald Pahr of Austria, told reporters the October summit would breathe new life into stalled global negotiations on world economic disparities.

Mr. Castaneda said the poorer countries appreciated an apparent shift in U.S. attitudes towards their problems, particularly since their recent declared approval for global discussions.

Mr. Pahr said "no concrete decisions can be expected in October and there will be no negotiations... that must be left for the United Nations."

Diplomats said agreement that the U.N. should be the forum for global negotiations was reflected in the decision to invite Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to the summit.

Among the eight developed countries at the conference were the United States, France, Japan and Britain while the poor nations included India, Brazil, China and Tanzania.

Alexander Haig of the United States, which is often accused by critics of showing indifference to Third World problems, summed up the optimistic mood of the weekend talks.

"I believe all of us recognise that we have an historic opportunity at Cancun in October to make a new beginning in relations among our nations," he said.

Delegates from developing countries appeared to agree with his view though Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua said the creation of a new economic order was a "long-term and arduous task which cannot be fulfilled overnight."

echoed this when he said: "I fear the expectations of a blueprint for the future may rise too much merely by the very fact that the summit is to be held."

The summit, promoted by the most country and Austria, was first suggested by an international commission chaired by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

The Brandt Commission warned of an ever-widening Gulf between the industrial north, with fourth-fifths of the world's income, and the developing south which has three-quarters of the population.

Summing up the aims of the "north-south" dialogue, the Mexican foreign minister said "the time has come to launch a major crusade to eradicate fear and death, hunger and injustice and to establish the realm of equality and hope."

Oil buyers' revolt spreads to the Gulf

Japan wants oil prices slashed

TOKYO, Aug. 3 (R) — Japanese refiners are demanding price cuts by Middle East OPEC countries in the latest move in a buyers' campaign to bring down the cost of crude oil, according to industry sources in Tokyo.

The sources said that, spreading the buyers' revolt to the Gulf, Japanese buyers want Iran to slash prices by four or five dollars a barrel, from a high of \$37.

The economic daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun said importers would refuse to ship 230,000 barrels a day (b/d) contracted for delivery from Iran in August if prices stay high.

U.S. and European buyers meanwhile are continuing to press African members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to cut their prices and, because of a world oil surplus, have been able to stop taking delivery of substantial volumes to back their demands.

The Japanese are caught in a pincer between flagging home demand for refinery products and the high price of crude, which is pushed up as far as they are concerned by a sharp fall in the yen against the U.S. dollar, the oil industry's main currency.

Japanese refineries are working between 30 and 40 per cent below full capacity and the 14 major Japanese oil refiners and wholesalers are expected to run up a combined pre-tax deficit of some two billion dollars between April and September, chiefly because of the yen's decline.

The difficulties in Japan mirror "downstream" losses also worrying oil companies in Europe, where responses have included a successful bid to get \$4.25 trimmed from the British North Sea crude price and petrol prices increases notably in Britain and West Germany.

The Tokyo industry sources said Japanese buyers are seeking price concessions from Kuwait as well as Iran. The sources said Kuwait has approached four Japanese firms, which have contracts for 130,000 b/d expiring in September and December, to negotiate on requests that Kuwait drop a premium of six dollars a barrel and return premiums paid in advance.

The Saudis, among other OPEC members, imposed premiums on top of official prices when the oil market was tight. The present surplus, which strengthens buyers' hands, was allowed to develop by Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter and leading OPEC moderate, in a bid to stabilise the world price of oil.

The Saudis have kept their output of some of OPEC's cheapest crude at near-record levels despite a slump in world oil demand. Imports into Japan, the second biggest importer after the United States, hit a three-year low last month.

In other dealings with Kuwait, Japan's Daikyo oil earlier this year renewed a contract for 30,000 b/d at the official \$35.5 a barrel with a reduced premium of \$2.75.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, Aug. 3 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

Table with exchange rates for One sterling, One U.S. dollar, One ounce of gold, and various currencies like Canadian dollar, West German marks, etc.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, Aug. 3 (R) — The market closed mixed in subdued trading amidst further dollar strength against sterling, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 0.8 at 528.9.

Government bonds were as much as 1/2 point lower in short and long maturities in response to weaker sterling, although turnover was relatively low, dealers said. The attraction of high yields expected at the U.S. Treasury bill and note auctions all through this week was a further negative influence, dealers added.

Gold shares closed lower with the bullion price, while North American issues firmed.

In an easier electrical sector, STC fell to a low of 424 from 457 following half year results below market expectations. Plessey eased 4p, while GEC ended unchanged having earlier shown a 5p gain 748.

Australian cinema gets a windfall

By Colin Chapman

SYDNEY: Australia's fast growing number of film producers, directors, writers and cameramen, not to mention assorted bank managers and accountants, are mightily relieved at the Federal Government's plan to allow tax concessions for the film industry.

Ministers has just cut a swathe through public spending.

To give away up to A\$30 million (U.S. \$35 million) of taxpayers' money for film-making may seem curious at a time when Australians are being asked to bear more of the cost of health care and higher education. But Canberra is not unaware of the new image recent international film successes have brought Australia.

Although opinions differ as to which film first put the Australian industry on the map, 1974 was the year when Hollywood and other film-making centres first noticed that productions Down Under were both cheap and good. Pete Weir's Picnic at Hanging Rock cost only A\$454,000 to make, and returned a profit of more than A\$1 million.

Cheaper Australian films which made a profit were the Adven-

tures of Barry McKenzie, Alvin Purple, The Libido, The Man From Hong Kong and Caddie. More recently, Australia has been striving hard to win international awards. Successes have included

The Australian film industry, which has won great acclaim in recent years, is about to get a large infusion of cash with a package of tax concessions.

Margaret Fink's My Brilliant Career, Puberty Blues and Breaker Morant.

But this has taken place over several years. Last year, only six feature films were made in Australia, compared with the 44 that have been given provisional approval by Mr. Ian Wilson, the Minister of Home Affairs, for the

investment funds must be Australian, though there is nothing to stop companies raising capital overseas. Mr. Wilson also concerns himself with the script, the cast, the locations and beneficial ownership of copyright. The use of overseas actors and technicians is accepted.

The major tax concessions are a 150 per cent tax deduction on capital expenditure and a 50 per cent tax exemption on returns from the film.

This means that a high-income earner whose marginal tax rate is 60 per cent will find films a very attractive investment. Out of an income of, say, A\$120,000 he could invest A\$50,000 in a film. The 150 per cent tax deduction means he can then cut A\$75,000 from his taxable income, which, at the marginal rate of 60 per cent, means he had reduced his tax bill by A\$45,000. So his net outlay on

the film is a mere A\$5,000. This means that he will break even when his share of box-office returns reaches A\$5,000, and the next A\$20,000 after that will be tax free.

A number of banks, including Grindlays, and firms of solicitors and accountants have already started assembling film projects and funds. Two broking houses have published circulars advising clients on the best way to go about investment.

Inevitably, Australia's media barons have got into the act of forming embryo film companies. One of the most formidable could be the partnership between Mr. Rupert Murdoch and Mr. Robert Stigwood, the impresario, in R and R Films.

R and R has just completed its first film, Gallipoli, a study of the relationship between two young Australians sent to fight in the Dardanelles in World War I.

Shot in Egypt and South Australia it is, by all accounts, another potential award-winner.

"I think we will be successful because our films are about integrity," says Mr. Ben Gannon, the company's general manager. "Most of the stuff from Hollywood is exploitation of horror or out-and-out entertainment like Star Wars, and our costs, though rising, are much lower than Hollywood's."

Financial Times News Feature

Oil from China's main field peaks

By Michael Rank

DAQING OIL FIELD, China — Oilmen on China's biggest oil field at Daqing say output has peaked and will decline after 1985, underscoring the importance of getting new oil out of as yet unexploited offshore deposits.

The offshore reserves, the extent of which has yet to be proved, lie off the south coast. But oil is not likely to flow from those deposits for several years, according to western oil company executives.

Daqing, about 1,400 kilometres north east of Peking, produces about half of China's total oil out-

put, estimated over the past two years at around two million barrels per day (b/d) — slightly less oil than is produced from the Anglo-Norwegian North Sea.

While saying that they expected Daqing's output to remain stable at around one million b/d until 1985, Daqing officials declined to forecast the rate at which production would then fall.

Officials said they planned to open up three more small oil-bearing rock structures in the Daqing area and to drill deeper, but they did not expect this to alter the outlook for gradually declining output.

Daqing started production in

1960. Its output soared to the present level of around a million barrels daily by 1976, despite conditions harsher than in most of the world's big oil fields outside the Arctic and Siberia which made Daqing synonymous with hardship and self-sacrifice.

Many of Daqing's 700,000 inhabitants were for years housed in tents, enduring a climate that causes temperatures to soar to 37 degrees Celsius in summer then plunge to minus 40 Celsius in winter.

The authorities are, however, trying hard to make life more pleasant in Daqing's bleak, featureless landscape where building materials are still largely transported by horse and cart.

New apartment blocks are being built in the oil field zone which covers about 1,000 square kilometres and has no real centre other than its railway station.

About 140,000 people directly involved in the oil industry at Daqing receive a special eight-yuan (\$4.60) monthly bonus as a hardship allowance. Field workers earn extra bonus payments that bring their earnings to nearly double the average Chinese monthly wage of about 60 yuan (\$34).

Drilling team leader Cui Lanlin, who had about 60 workers under

him, said his basic wage was only 58 yuan (\$33) but that bonus payments earned him 110 yuan (\$63) a month.

Officials said about 15,000 young people were sent from Shanghai 10 years ago to settle in Daqing and many were at first unhappy over the harsh conditions.

But the officials said they had accustomed themselves to life in Daqing and there had been no strikes by rusticated youths such as have been reported from the remote western region of Xinjiang.

Officials reckoned they were getting out about 30 per cent of the oil in the reserves, about the world average.

Recently some foreign technology has been imported and two Italian firms, Compagnia Tecnica Internazionale Progetti (CTIP) and Nuova Pignone, and the U.S. Fluor Corporation, are building a series of natural gas dehydration and stabilising stations in a deal worth \$67 million.

Italian engineers said the project was expected to open this autumn but they did not expect further large-scale foreign projects at Daqing.

Reuter

Advertise by mail in the Jordan Times

The Jordan Times can accept classified advertisements that are sent in by mail and accompanied by full payment in cash. Readers and advertisers who cannot conveniently

bring their advertisements to the Jordan Times office or to an advertising agency office in Amman may send in their ads by mail on the following conditions:

- 1. Full payment in cash or check accompanies the advertisement.
2. The minimum charge for a single advertisement is JD 6
3. Advertisements sent by mail cannot contain any artwork such as company emblems, photos or drawings, but must consist only of a headline and copy that will be typeset by the Jordan Times.
4. Advertisements are not accepted over the telephone or telex, and guaranteed insertions on specific dates can only be assured by sending in the advertisements so they reach the Jordan Times office at least two days before the required day of publication.
5. For the minimum price of JD 6, the advertiser will have published an advertisement of three centimetres on two columns, which will have a maximum of 30 words, including the headline and telephone numbers to be called. The JD 6 charge is for one insertion; two insertions cost JD 12, three insertions cost JD 18, etc.
6. For a larger ad, the rates are JD 8 for 40 words and JD 10 for 50 words.
7. You can take advantage of the Jordan Times advertising by mail facility by completing the form below and mailing it with full payment in cash or check to:

Advertising Department
The Jordan Times,
P.O. Box 6710,
Amman, Jordan.

(write one word only per box - please print)

Grid for providing contact information and payment details.

Please publish the above advertisement in the Jordan Times on _____ day (s). Enclosed is payment of _____

Name:
Address:
Signature:

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Will be running an Arabic Beginners course commencing August 8th. If you are interested, please come and register this week.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REQUIRED
AL-GHANEM TRADING & CONTRACTING CO. LTD.
requires an executive secretary. Applicants must have graduated from a commercial business school and have a minimum five years experience. Fluent English and Arabic and an excellent knowledge of all office activities is required.

For interview, please phone: 38200

FOR RENT

A centrally heated, unfurnished apartment consists of two bedrooms, salon, two bathrooms, garage and an independent entrance garden. Annual rent: JD 2,500. Location: Shmaisani, Abed El-Haleem Elnoimer St. House No. 111/93, 5306 100m east of Abu Anzeh Housing Project. Please call: Tel. 83711, 64256

ANNOUNCEMENT

Voest-Alpine announces relocation of office beginning with 29/7/81. Tel: 44073, 44187, between Fourth and Fifth Circles.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

PLO, Taiwan, Macao accepted by ABC U.S.

MANILA, Aug. 3 (R) — The Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) today accepted Taiwan, Macao and the Palestine Liberation Organisation as new members.

It also set the Asian championships for November and drafted two proposals to be sent to the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

One proposal is to set height categories in world basketball. The other is to have two reserved slots for Africa and Asia in the Olympic Games.

The decisions were taken at a one-day meeting here of the ABC executive committee, attended by 10 of the 21 members.

Taiwan was actually readmitted to the ABC after dropping out when China decided to join the IOC, the FIBA and the ABC.

Taiwan's council, renamed the China-Taipei Basketball Association (CTBA), was recently readmitted into the FIBA and the IOC.

The ABC games, opening on November 12 in Calcutta, were originally set for December but the committee decided to move them forward one month so as not to conflict with the Asian games, which will be held in Manila in December.

The height categories proposed were for above and below 1.88 metres. ABC officials said Asian teams were at a disadvantage against European and American sides in height and weight.

The ABC also wants two Olympic slots each for Asia and Africa. The two continents were so big, officials said, that it was unfair for them to have just one slot each in the Olympics.

Countries represented at the meeting were India, China, Kuwait, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the Philippines.

outclassed by USSR

MOSCOW, Aug. 3 (R) — The Soviet Union today completed decisive victories over the United States in the decathlon and heptathlon contests in Leningrad.

The Soviet athletes won the decathlon by 46,740 points to 36,885 and the heptathlon by 18,484 points to 16,372.

Yuri Kusenko, silver medalist in the Moscow Olympic Games last year and in the lead in Leningrad after seven of the 10 events in the decathlon, dropped out of the competition along with 1978 European champion Alexander Grebenyuk. But the Soviet strength was such that they still took the first four places in the individual standings, with Alexander Nevsky topping the list with 8,170 points.

Yekaterina Gordienko was the top heptathlon girl with 6,320 points, leading the Soviet quartette into the top four places in the individual performances.

Piquet gains ground on Reutemann

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany, Aug. 3 (R) — Nelson Piquet of Brazil gained ground on Argentina's Carlos Reutemann in the battle for the world drivers championship by winning the West German Grand Prix here yesterday.

Piquet, with victories in Brazil, San Marino and West Germany, moves on to the Austrian Grand Prix on August 16 just eight points adrift of Reutemann whose Williams dropped out two-thirds of the way through yesterday's race.

Piquet, thwarted of the world crown last year by engine trouble in the Canadian Grand Prix, was understandably wary about his title chances.

"It's very difficult to talk about the championship," he said, still savouring the champagne of his Hockenheim win. "Last year, with two races to go I was leading, and at the end I lost."

Piquet took his chance yesterday when defending world champion Alan Jones, in the other Williams, saw near-certain victory snatched away in the final few laps for the second year in a row by a defect in his car.

Last year a burst tyre plunged Jones, Hockenheim victor in 1979, from first place to third. This year trouble with the fuel injection eroded his commanding lead and he finished a distant 11th.

Piquet had his own problems when his Brabham shed a skirt in the early stages. "The car was very hard to keep balanced," he said. "Without Jones's bad luck I would hardly have won."

But the day ended well for the Brabhams with Piquet first and young Mexican Hector Rebaque fourth, split by French pair Alain Prost and Jacques Laffite.

Record breaker

MOSCOW, Aug. 3 (R) — Soviet pole vaulter Konstantin Volkov cleared 5.84 metres in a competition to mark Soviet railway workers' day in his native city of Irkutsk today, but his effort may not be recognised as a world record.

IAAF regulations state: "The record must be made in a bona fide competition which has been advertised and authorised before the day by the IAAF."

Women display their bowling talents

TORONTO, Aug. 3 (R) — England, Ireland, Zimbabwe and Hong Kong remained undefeated in singles competition going into the second round of the women's world lawn bowls championship.

Norma Shaw of England, Eileen Bell of Ireland, Flo Kennedy of Zimbabwe and Helen Wong of Hong Kong each scored two wins yesterday, giving them the maximum eight points each after four rounds of competition. The player with the most number of points at the end of the 17-round round-robin event wins the championship.

Shaw defeated Maria Lunon of Fiji 21-12 in the third round, then beat Dot Foley of Guernsey 21-7 in the fourth. Bell beat Foley 21-14 and Pat Boehm of the United States 21-2. Kennedy defeated Margaret Mitchell of Papua New Guinea 21-13 and Zambia's Sylvia Keeling 21-15. Wong won 21-4 over Dina Byman of Jersey and 21-3 over Mavis Meadowcroft of Australia.

Bonn championships fivefold winner



BONN (DaD) — Ina Beyermann (left), a 16-year-old school girl from Cologne, Federal Republic of Germany, won five titles at the national swimming championships in Bonn. They were in the 200, 400 and 800 metres freestyle and the 4 X 100 and 4 X 200 metres freestyle relay. "Hooked on titles," so her coach Gerhard Hetz says, Ina won three more in her age group. She is 1.70 metres tall and weighs 57kg. In the 200 metres, her best event, she swam the world's second-best time this season, 2 min. 1 sec. But she and Katrin Heise (right), third in the 400 metres backstroke, still find time for a laugh.

England lead Australia in test series

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug. 3 (R) — England's cricketers achieved another incredible victory over Australia when they won the fourth test by 29 runs at Edgbaston here yesterday.

The triumph, which put England 2-1 ahead in the six-match series, was reminiscent of their equally remarkable 18-run win against the odds in the third test at Leeds.

Australia needed 151 runs to win here and were dismissed for 121 on the fourth day after seeming on course for success when they reached 105 for four.

But former England skipper Ian Botham, one of the heroes of the victory at Leeds, produced a match-winning burst in which he took five wickets for one run in 28 deliveries.

Botham, who finished with five for 11 and was named man of the match, caused a collapse in which Australia's last six wickets crashed for 16.

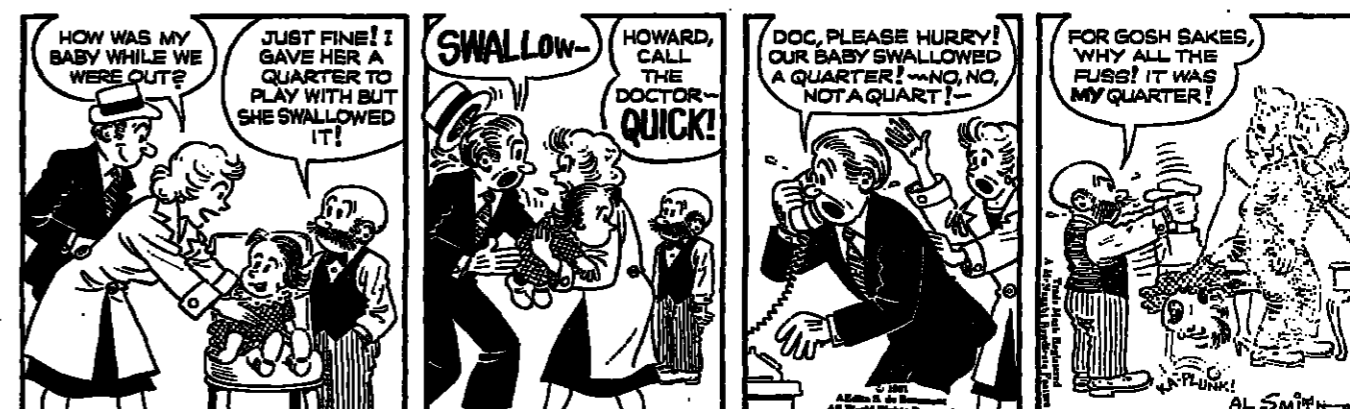
The touring team were guided into a winning position by resolute batting from Allan Border, but his dismissal for top score of 40 started the slump.

The fourth test starts in Manchester on August 13 and the final match begins at the Oval, London, on August 27.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



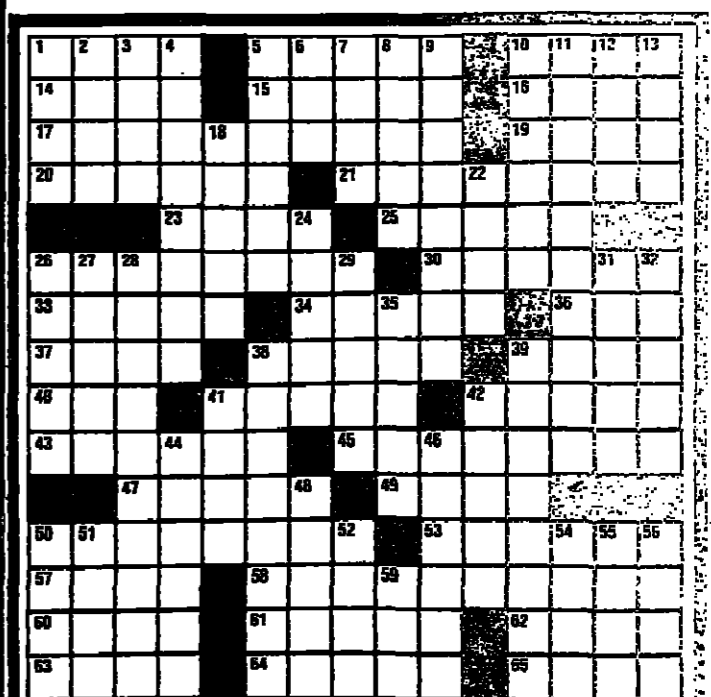
THE Daily Crossword by G. Murray

ACROSS

- Certain founders
- Make cameo
- Follow
- Needle case
- Once more
- Man of the (hero)
- Flighty one
- Carterist
- Peter
- London's Fleet
- Canine experts
- Gang
- River to the Rhone
- Abandoned
- Apple
- Cognizant
- Cotton
- Machine
- Norse goddess of healing
- Barbecue goodies
- Cold
- Chinese
- Eucharistic vestment
- Hearts
- Incidence
- Cuts
- Libels
- Long hair
- Lake or port
- Abandonment
- Sculpture of a kind
- Horse
- Having turned-in digits
- Monster of myth
- English composer
- Lancaster
- Army meal
- Musical alliances
- Judge
- Society entrants
- Bustly engaged
- Vivid novel
- Motorcycle adjuncts
- Used a wagon
- Turkish chief
- Forsy
- Climbing plants
- Trapped
- Iron
- Practical shrewdness
- Family member
- Certain players
- City on the Azores
- de ferax
- German romantic composer and Tchaik
- Rosevelt and Tchaik
- Ribbed icicle
- TV aid
- Valleys
- Duck
- Joys
- Hastory thread
- Running mate
- Owing money
- SAT's administrator
- Tour jetter
- Tall birds
- Knights' suits
- Steps over a fence
- Here to Eternity
- Theater seat
- Breakfast fare
- Daughter of Scrytus
- misjazy
- Cheese
- Cine

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

DIAMOND USES SHAW
 ALLANS LEAD LEVI
 CULTURE VOLTURES
 OVER DONA EBBROS
 I SIBA RILES
 AISEWITS LAWIE KRIT
 PRESIA ADRIA HARD
 SANITBEL RANNIBAL
 EPIC KUIT EERTIS
 SIEE KALIE JUBATIS
 PUMIA DATA
 EICHOVA SIDO RAMP
 FEATURE PEEAHER
 HART EXAM CHORE
 SILEY DENIS TYPERS



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
©1981 by Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K976
 ♥ 53
 ♦ J7
 ♣ J10543

EAST
 ♠ QJ103
 ♥ K1084
 ♦ 54
 ♣ 8632

SOUTH
 ♠ A542
 ♥ A9
 ♦ AKQ10
 ♣ KQ7

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2NT Pass 3♣ Pass
 3♦ Pass 4♣ Pass
 Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

When a contract looks unbeatable, it is easy to be lulled into a false sense of security. Don't be! Distributional quirks can upset even the soundest contract, so prepare for the worst.

North used the Stayman convention to probe for a 4-4 major fit. When South showed a spade suit, North opted for the major-suit game because of his ruffing value.

West led the queen of hearts, and declarer foresaw no problems. He won the ace of hearts and cashed the ace-king of trumps. He was rudely jolted when East snuffed a diamond on the second trump. Declarer tried to recover by running his diamonds, but West showed fine appreciation of his defensive prospects when he refused to ruff; instead, he discarded a club and a heart. Had he ruffed, control of the hand would have reverted to declarer.

On his high diamonds, declarer discarded a heart and a club from dummy. Then he ruffed a heart on the table, but that was his last trick. When he led a club to his king, West won the ace and drew the remaining trumps, and the defenders took two heart tricks to earn a two-trick set.

When dummy appeared, it should have been obvious to declarer that he could afford to lose two trump tricks and a club and still make his game. It was correct to start drawing trumps after winning the ace of hearts—but declarer could not afford to draw more than one round!

The right approach is to win the ace of hearts, cash the king of spades and then start on diamonds. On the third diamond declarer snuffs a heart from dummy. It makes no difference if a defender ruffs the third diamond—declarer has time to ruff a heart in dummy and force out the ace of clubs.

If neither defender ruffs a diamond, declarer clears the suit, conceding a ruff if the defenders choose to take it, and then drives out the ace of clubs. Declarer thus retains trump control, and no matter what West does he cannot make more than two trump tricks and the ace of clubs.

What if trumps are 3-2 and the hand with short trumps ruffs the third diamond? The defenders will still get only two more tricks, and all that declarer will have blown would be an overtrick.

THE BETTER HALF. By Vinson

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PRUCO
 EMYTH
 HALVIS
 SAYILE

While HE acts so important...!

WHAT A BUSINESSMAN WHO ADDS HIS SONS TO THE COMPANY PAYROLL DOES.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ○○○○ ON ○○○○ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PENCE - BURLY REBUKE LIQUID
 Answer: What the inventor of that automatic packaging machine made—A BUNDLE

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 4, 1981

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Despite an early morning annoyance you can easily attain your personal desires later in the day. Make yourself available to new contact who can be helpful to you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid an irate associate in the morning and then the rest of the day goes smoothly for you. Be more positive minded.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do necessary work early in the day and then get in touch with higher-ups for the advice you need. Strive for happiness.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can make progress where new situations of importance are concerned. New allies can be helpful to you now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Try not to lose your temper in a family dispute even though you could be right. Show more affection for loved one.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Know what is expected of you by associates and then you can coordinate efforts most intelligently. Use common sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study career matters and plan to handle assignments wisely. Do something to build up your strength. Relax tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Good day to engage in recreational activities that you enjoy. Bring your best skills to the attention of higher-ups.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ideal day to entertain persons who can help you get ahead in your line of endeavor. A new project needs more study.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Arrange a meeting with key persons so you can advance more quickly. The evening should be quiet and restful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Finding a better method of operating can pave the way to greater success. Be sure to cut down on unnecessary expenses.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may feel at a low ebb in the morning but the rest of the day you can accomplish a great deal. Express happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try to obtain the truth of a situation that is puzzling to you. Make sure your work is done before engaging in recreation.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she should be taught humanitarianism to go along the desire to get ahead. A good education must be provided in order to achieve success. Don't neglect religious training. Be sure to expose to sports and teach fair play.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

U.S. air traffic jeopardised

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3 (R)—America's air traffic controllers went on strike today in defiance of a federal court order to stay at their posts, threatening widespread disruption of domestic and international flights.

But the government pledged to try to keep basic air services operating throughout the country, and non-striking supervisory employees backed by military air controllers moved in to take over as the strike began at 7 a.m. (1100 GMT). The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organisation (PATCO), whose 15,500 members make up 91 per cent of the 17,000 government air controllers, stopped work to back demands for more pay after last-minute talks broke down in Washington.

The union's air controllers, rallying almost unanimously behind their president Robert Poli, started picketing at U.S. airports which handle 14,000 flights a day and warned that their absence would endanger air travel.

Dominic Torchia, a top PATCO official, said in a television interview after the strike began that the union would not take responsibility for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) putting "unequally people" in the control towers.

Asked if people flying across the country while the strike was on

were in danger, he replied: "absolutely."

Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis said on the same T.V. show that the government "is not going to deal with the union that calls an illegal strike" and planned to try to decertify PATCO for violating its charter in striking against "the public safety and the public good."

While domestic air travel was expected to be worst affected by the strike, some delays were also forecast for international flights. Mr. Lewis said it would help if departures of flights from abroad, such as Europe, were staggered to prevent them being stacked up over their U.S. destinations at

peak hours. Strikers could face a maximum fine of \$1,000 and a year in prison for violating the federal law which bars government employees from striking.

PATCO took the strike decision after its members rejected a 42-month contract last week that would have cost the government some \$40 million.

Meanwhile, President Reagan today gave striking air traffic controllers an ultimatum to return to work within 48 hours or be fired. The president announced his get-tough action four hours after controllers forced moves to cancel at least half the country's 14,000 commercial flights.

IRA kills 2 policemen as 8th Maze man dies

BELFAST, Aug. 3 (R)— Violence provoked by the death of an eighth Irish guerrilla hunger striker in a Belfast jail spilled over into the Irish Republic today.

Stone-throwing demonstrators besieged a police station and started fires across the border in Monaghan, centre of the Irish constituency represented in the Dublin Parliament by hunger striker Kieran Doherty.

Doherty, elected as a Member of the Irish Parliament last June, died in Belfast's Maze prison last night after refusing food for 73 days.

Irish police, using baton charges, took two hours to disperse the demonstrators in Monaghan.

Doherty was the eighth man to die since jailed guerrillas of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end Northern Ireland's ties with Britain, began hunger strikes this year in support of their demands for political prisoner status.

His death provoked riots in Belfast. Londonderry, Armagh and three other towns in Northern Ireland. In Belfast, a British soldier lost both his legs when a rocket hit his vehicle last night.

Police fired plastic bullets to disperse demonstrators who threw home-made bombs, and the rioting subsided early today.

In Dublin, Doherty's death created new problems for Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald's coalition government, which has a majority of only two votes in the Dail (parliament).

Dr. FitzGerald issued a statement regretting his death. But he said he had also learned with sorrow about the deaths of two Northern Ireland policemen killed by IRA guerrillas.

The policemen, who died in a landmine explosion after the seventh IRA hunger striker had starved himself to death on Saturday, left nine children. The deaths of two more hunger strikers came despite a plea by the

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Curfew on 3 West Bank villages lifted

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3 (R)— The authorities in the Israeli-occupied West Bank today lifted a curfew imposed on three villages after Palestinian guerrillas attacked a bus near Jerusalem last week, military sources said. The curfew had covered the villages of Bido, Kama and Beit Anan close to the Maale Hahamisha Kibbutz, where the attack took place. The sources said that security forces had detained more than 100 villagers for questioning in connection with the attack but that only three people were still being held. Four Israelis were wounded in the attack. One, a woman, is still in a critical condition.

U.N. observation post comes under fire

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3 (R)— A United Nations observation post in South Lebanon came under fire today from unidentified assailants on the tenth day of the fragile ceasefire on the Israeli-Lebanese border, a U.N. spokesman said. There were no casualties. The spokesman, contacted from Israel, said the observation post at the Reshaf village near Bint Jbail in the central region of the Falangist militia enclave suffered slight damage from light weapons fire. The U.N. troops returned the fire and later the Falangist militia fired several volleys towards the unknown attackers, the spokesman added. The ceasefire, which began on July 24, ended a two-week war of attrition between Israel and the Palestinians in Lebanon which resulted in many civilian casualties.

BBC external services' cuts deplored

GENEVA, Aug. 3 (R)— International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) General Secretary Herman Rebhan has protested to the British government about cuts ordered in the external services of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the federation said today. The Geneva-based organisation said Mr. Rebhan told the British foreign secretary, Lord Carrington, in a letter: "You could trim most of your embassies by half and it would not have the same effect as your proposed cutbacks for the BBC." The IMF links 14 million metalworkers in 60 countries. "I travel many hundreds of thousands of miles each year in the course of my duties and it would be difficult to exaggerate the good work that BBC external services in the vernacular achieve," Mr. Rebhan said. "It is particularly distressing that you are removing the Spanish Service at a time when that country so urgently needs calm, honest and accurate news would not be interrupted in the event of a crisis," he said. "The cuts in the Brazilian Service are also particularly distressing for the trade unionists of that country. Brazil is going through a period of great instability and needs independent, reliable media," his letter added.

Factory racket discovered in Nanking

PEKING, Aug. 3 (R)— An investigation has revealed that state-owned factories in the former nationalist Chinese capital of Nanking illegally made consumer goods from waste materials for cheap sale to their workers, the People's Daily said today. The official newspaper said a two-month inquiry in Nanking found 68 units guilty distributing illegally-made products worth more than six million yuan (\$3.5 million) to their workers cheaply as "welfare goods." The illegal products included television sets, furniture, meat mincers and electric fans. Many factory officials had obstructed the investigation, it said, but the city's financial departments had now ended what it described as "this unhealthy trend." By way of punishment, 520,000 yuan (\$300,000) in extra taxes had been levied and 45,000 yuan (\$26,000) of cash confiscated.

Haitian refugees moved due to crowding

MIAMI, Florida, Aug. 3 (R)— Two hundred Haitian refugees were flown from Miami to a federal detention centre near Lexington, Kentucky in a further effort to relieve overcrowding at South Florida's Krome Avenue detention camp. Almost 300 Haitians were moved from Krome to centres in New York State, Texas and West Virginia two weeks ago and were almost immediately replaced by about 500 more refugees who reached Florida in rickety sailing boats. Krome, with a theoretical capacity of 550, had a population of 929 refugees after yesterday's transfer, officials of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) said. All but 100 of them were Haitians. Ira Kurtzman, a lawyer fighting to protect the legal rights of the Haitians, said of yesterday's move: "There's no question why they (INS) did it. They're going to institute deportation proceedings against them." He and other lawyers have filed a lawsuit to halt the transfer of refugees out of Florida to places where they would have difficulty in finding legal representatives. The lawyers are involved in a running legal battle with the INS and with Florida officials who say the influx of refugees is a federal problem and the burden of caring for them should be lifted from the taxpayers of South Florida. The Reagan administration is seeking congressional approval for a new immigration policy which, among other things, would allow the coast guard to turn back boats carrying illegal aliens towards the United States.

Poles protest on wheels

WARSAW, Aug. 3 (R)— The Solidarity free trade union mounted a spectacular protest on wheels in the Polish capital today as its leaders began a new round of talks with the government on the worsening food supply situation.

Hundreds of buses, taxis, lorries and garbage trucks drove through the streets in convoy with lights burning and horns blaring, converging on government and Communist Party buildings from several parts of the city to demand more food.

Police re-routed some vehicles to keep them away from the building housing the party's central committee and council of ministers, where the Solidarity delegation led by Lech Walesa was meeting Deputy Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski.

A crowd of several thousands gathered around the head of the

convoy and unarmed police stood by.

The Warsaw protest was similar to others staged across Poland last week but was the biggest of its kind in a 10-day-old campaign against shortages, proposed higher prices and meat ration reductions.

Slogans on the vehicles accused the authorities of presiding over the "biological destruction" of the Polish race, and said the 20 per cent reduction in meat allowances for August was the first result of last month's Communist Party congress.

Today's protest came as workers throughout the Warsaw region went on strike alert in readiness for a two-hour stoppage on Wednesday. Solidarity reported other protests were planned elsewhere in Poland.

Roberto Peci executed

ROME, Aug. 3 (R)— Italy's Red Brigades urban guerrillas today shot dead the last of four men they kidnapped this year and dumped his bullet-riddled body on a rubbish heap just outside Rome.

Police found Roberto Peci, brother of a former guerrilla turned informer, in a deserted shack amid heaps of garbage after a telephone tip-off to an Italian news agency.

Mr. Peci, a 25-year-old electrician, was blindfolded with his hands manacled across his chest. Police said he had been shot six times in the stomach.

"Death to traitors" was written on a card left on the scene along with a red flag with the brigades' five-pointed star symbol.

Of the three other men the Red Brigades kidnapped this year in what they described as their "spring and summer offensive 1981," two were released unharmed and one was killed in July.

The guerrillas, who kidnapped

and killed former prime minister Aldo Moro in 1978, freed prominent Naples politician Ciriilo and Alfa Romeo car firm manager Renzo Sandrucci. They killed chemicals executive Giuseppe Taliercio.

Mr. Peci was kidnapped on June 10 near his Adriatic coast home. The brigades passed a "death sentence" on him, saying he had turned his brother Patrizio over to the police.

Patrizio's arrest last year and his confessions led to police raids on Red Brigades hideouts.

Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini condemned Mr. Peci's murder and said "The state's reply will be to fight with no quarter to re-establish democratic order."

Police believed the Red Brigades had been hit hard by Patrizio's revelations. An alleged brigades boss and suspected mastermind of the Moro kidnapping, Mario Moretti, 35, was arrested last April.

But the brigades, determined to show they were still a force to reckon with, began a new campaign by abducting Mr. Ciriilo in April. Mr. Taliercio in May and Mr. Sandrucci in June.

Gen. Torrijos' death creates vacuum

Unlike Andres Perez, who was elected to office, Gen. Torrijos achieved power by toppling the civilian government of Arnulfo Arias in a 1968 military coup.

But Andres Perez said: "At heart Torrijos was a democrat."

President Oswaldo Hurtado of Ecuador, one of South America's few democracies, said Gen. Torrijos "fought untiringly for the noble causes of Latin America and the developing world."

Gen. Torrijos, head of the national guard, ruled Panama until 1978 after the canal zone treaty was signed.

He had frequently adopted stern measures to retain his power, but he also supported left-wing guerrilla movements fighting oppressive governments in Central America, most notably the Sandinistas who toppled Nicaraguan ruler Anastasio Somoza.

When Gen. Torrijos stepped down in 1978 his successor elected by Panama's national assembly was Aristides Royo. But the General retained command of the national guard and remained the most powerful man in the country.

After his death Florencio Flores, the new national guard chief, pledged military support for the government of President Royo. The general's body will lie in state at Panama's metropolitan cathedral until his funeral tomorrow.

Government officials said President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala of Colombia was among several heads of state expected to attend the funeral.

Gen. Torrijos' death creates vacuum

PANAMA CITY, Aug. 3 (R)— The death in an air crash of Panamanian strongman Omar Torrijos plunged this strategic Central American nation into mourning and politicians of all shades agreed that his demise had left a political vacuum.

Gen. Torrijos' stature as a forceful regional statesman was also recognised in messages of condolences sent by Latin American leaders after news of his death on Friday.

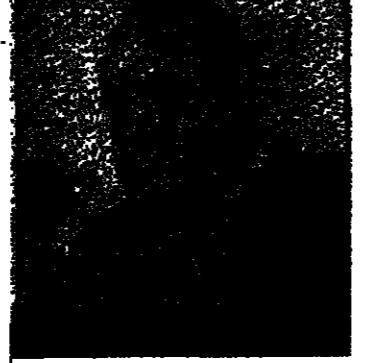
"In the ranks of the government it will be difficult to find a figure combining all the qualities of the fallen leader," said Arnulfo Scalone, president of the opposition Liberal Party.

Renato Pereira, president of the Ample Popular Front Party, said: "The political vacuum left by Torrijos can only be filled, and with difficulty, by a complete convergence of all the currents of political opinion that he set in motion."

The general's crusading nationalism, which culminated in the 1977 agreement with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to restore Panamanian sovereignty over the canal zone in the year 2000, helped to unite the country's diverse political groups.

His handling of negotiations with the United States also won the admiration of most Latin American countries, long distrustful of U.S. ambitions in the hemisphere.

Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Perez, one of the many regional heads of state who supported Gen. Torrijos' canal diplomacy, said: "Central America has lost a leader who was fundamental to the region's stabilisation."



Robert Muldoon

Muldoon, opponents to discuss tour

WELLINGTON, Aug. 3 (R)— Leading opponents of the South African rugby visit agreed today to take part in four-way talks which could decide to cut short the remaining six weeks of the tour.

Prime Minister Robert Muldoon, who called the meeting, has said it will be a last chance gathering. Representatives of the rugby union and the police have been invited.

It was delayed while protesters decided whether to participate.

Pauline McKay, national chairman of the leading anti-tour group HART (Half All Racial Tours), said HART would be represented but that it still wanted the tour called off.

The government said before the South Africans arrived that it opposed the tour, but it refused to deny them visas on the grounds it could only be cancelled by the sporting body concerned — the New Zealand Rugby Union.

Ces Balzey, chairman of the New Zealand Rugby Union, said he would attend Mr. Muldoon's talks but stressed that the meeting was only exploratory.

Pauline McKay added: "I say firmly the only way to solve the problem is for the Springboks to go."

She said she did not favour the suggested compromise of a shortened tour in exchange for non-disruptive protests.

Mr. Muldoon, meanwhile criticised Commonwealth countries which have attacked New Zealand's stance on the tour and moved a meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers to the Bahamas from Auckland.

And in Hamilton, ex-fighter pilot Pat Murray McQuarrie, 59, today was convicted of taking a light plane which police alleged he intended to crash kamikaze-style

into a packed grandstand as a protest against the current South African rugby tour of this country.

The Hamilton match on July 25 was cancelled. New Zealand police commissioner Bob Walton said the main reason was the possibility of a protest suicide crash into the stands.

McQuarrie admitted unlawfully taking a plane on July 25 and also of trying to do so three days earlier at the start of the controversial tour, widely opposed by opponents of South Africa's race policies. He was held without bail pending sentence.

Defence counsel denied police evidence that his client intended to crash the plane into the stands. Police said he was only minutes from his target when he heard on the plane radio of the game's cancellation and landed at a nearby town where he was arrested.

Royal wedding rekindles thorny issue of Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR, Aug. 3 (R)— The rapturous welcome given to the Prince and Princess of Wales here Saturday has highlighted problems underlying Anglo-Spanish talks on the future of this British colony.

Police estimated most of the rocky peninsula's 30,000 population packed the narrow streets to greet the royal couple as they drove from the airport to the docks to join the royal yacht Britannia for a two-week honeymoon cruise.

Spain has claimed the strategic five kilometre stretch of rock ever since its capture by the British in 1704, even though it ceded territory to Britain for ever under a treaty signed in 1713.

The visit, which sparked a storm of protest in Spain, was seen by Gibraltarans as an affirmation of a British pledge not to hand over the rock to its Spanish neighbours against local wishes.

"This was a second referendum," said one resident, recalling the 1967 ballot in which the local population, who are of mainly Genoese, Maltese and British descent, voted overwhelmingly to remain a colony of the British crown.

Local opposition leader Peter Isola, of the Democratic Party for British Gibraltar, said the decision by Spain's King Juan Carlos not to attend last week's royal wedding in London because of the visit had guaranteed an exceptionally warm welcome for the Prince and Princess.

He said that Gibraltarans basically distrusted promises by the

Madrid government to uphold their interests if sovereignty were transferred to Spain.

Mr. Isola said that no understanding could ever be reached between Gibraltarans and the Spanish government while a 12-year-old blockade imposed by Gen. Franco remained in force.

Gibraltar's economy revolves around the naval dockyard used by British forces and the spending power of nearly 7,000 resident servicemen and their wives is a vital source of income.

Mr. Isola said that many local businessmen were worried about competition from Spanish entrepreneurs if the border opened, while local workers feared an influx of unemployed Spaniards from nearby towns might undercut the labour market.

Britain agreed in Lisbon last year to open negotiations on Spanish claims to Gibraltar in return for a pledge to reopen the border.

But the accord has still not been implemented, apparently because of Spanish reluctance to give up the bargaining counter of border restrictions before talks actually start.

Even if Spain does re-open the border unconditionally, it is unlikely to produce a speedy solution to its claims, local politicians say.

Gibraltar Chief Minister Sir Joshua Hassan has said he sees no possibility that present or next generation Gibraltarans will want to integrate with Spain although in future a majority might take up the option.

Belgian monarchy faces internal threat

By Andrew Gowers

BRUSSELS— The Belgian monarchy, set up 150 years ago to bolster the country against external dangers, has become one of its main props against a possible crumbling from within.

While once-rich Belgium struggles through serious economic straits and semi-permanent government crisis, its constitutional monarchy seems in surprisingly good shape.

As Belgians celebrated the 150th anniversary on July 21 with the opening of an exhibition glorifying the history of the dynasty, one of the youngest in Europe, King Baudouin delivered a stern warning on the magnitude of the menaces they face.

"We must not only remember the past but also prepare for Belgium's future by coherent, confident and decisive action," he said in a speech which topped every newspaper's front page.

The coalition government, burdened with a huge public debt and facing a gaping budget deficit, struggles to agree on next year's budget while Belgium's French and Dutch speaking populations continue their incessant bickering. King Baudouin, 50, a bespectacled man with a faintly studious air who is clearly ill at ease with even the minimum of pomp and ceremony, cuts an unattractive figure.

He does not arouse the same personality cult in the Belgian public as do, say, Queen Elizabeth and her family in Britain.

Yet even those who think the country could do away with the monarchy recognise that the king does a very conscientious job. He makes a point of continuously meeting people of all walks of

life to hear their views. Well informed, he often seems the conscience of the nation.

The kings of the Belgians, as they are officially known, have always played a more prominent part in their country's political life than other constitutional heads of state.

Their role becomes particularly important when a government falls, as the king consults political leaders and designates the new prime minister. Belgium has had over 30 governments since World War II.

"The monarchic institution...this cornerstone, this regulatory organ of our political regime," Prime Minister Mark Eyskens called it this week.

During its 150 years of life, the monarchy's symbolic value has changed significantly.

When the Belgian national congress of 1831 was casting around for a constitution, a majority of its members was against choosing a hereditary ruler. But they allowed their republican sentiments to be overruled in a compromise to satisfy Europe's great powers.

The primary aim was to ensure an end to foreign domination of Belgium and the king, chosen from one of Europe's main aristocratic houses, was to be guarantor of this neutrality.

For Belgium, a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member defence from an external threat is no longer paramount. The present enemy of the country's survival is within.

Calls have been mounting from Flemish and Walloon (French-speaking) nationalists to split Belgium in two, and many of them have already written off the country's future.

In a newspaper article the leader of one of the francophone nationalist parties, Paul Henry Gendebien, wrote: "The rare people who felt obliged to take part in the (anniversary) celebrations did so morosely. The vast majority of Walloons has long ceased to celebrate Belgium. It was already known that there was no such thing as a Belgian nation, but it's obvious today that there's

hardly any such thing as a Belgian state."

Even Belgians with no particular political axe to grind say that King Baudouin is one of the only things holding their troubled country together.

Kings have always made much of their supposed neutrality, elevated above the day-to-day domestic political squabbles. "Sovereigns must keep themselves, with total loyalty, above the parties, beyond clashes of opinions, leaving the country to decide by itself," wrote King Albert, who ruled from 1909 to 1934.

But such balance is none too easy to maintain. King Baudouin himself was booted last year by Flemish nationalists in Antwerp for alleged bias towards the francophones and in Belgium's 1980 independence celebrations both Flemish and Walloon extremists boycotted a launching reception he gave.

Some Belgians fear a worsening of such problems when King Baudouin's nephew Prince Philippe takes over as it is widely assumed he would do should the king die.

King Baudouin and his Spanish Queen, Fabiola, are childless and the king has not been in the best of health recently. Last year he was twice hospitalised, once for a nerve ailment and once for heart problems, and he had to postpone an official trip to China.

In the most troubled period of the country's monarchy, after World War II, the so-called "royal question" led to street riots, as a large and vociferous minority objected to the return of King Leopold III to Belgium.

They accused him of collaborating with the German occupiers and eventually he was forced to abdicate in favour of his son Baudouin. Ex-King Leopold is still alive aged nearly 80, and has a palace just outside Brussels.

But Belgians try to forget what happened when the king himself became a subject of controversy. Politicians studiously avoided any reference to him during this week's anniversary celebrations.

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